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Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 1051.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1847.

## REVIEWS

*The Lives of the Lord Chancellors and Keepers of the Great Seal of England, from the Earliest Times till the Reign of King George IV.*  
By John Lord Campbell. Third Series. Vols. VI. and VII. Murray.

THESE volumes conclude a work which will take its place in our libraries as one of the most brilliant and valuable contributions to the literature of the present day. The noble author makes sundry apologies in his preface:—for the wide extent of his labours—for retracing ground already trodden with ability—and lastly, for the “familiar and colloquial style” with which he has touched the lighter parts of his admirably chosen subject. But his excuses are superfluous: a large compass was essential to a faithful execution of his task; a copious accession of new materials called for a new hand to mould them into narrative; and the cheerful, gossiping, informal manner of the story-telling is a charm, not a fault,—interspersed as it is with elaborate criticisms where the subject craves for them, and not betraying the writer into rash judgments or careless marshalling or statement of facts.

The new materials of which the author has had the advantage in the composition of these volumes consist principally of “the whole of Lord Loughborough’s papers,” communicated by Lord Rosslyn, his representative—many original letters of Lord Erskine—and (for the life of Lord Eldon) the contribution by Sir Robert Peel of all the letters which passed between him and Lord Eldon from the year 1822, when Sir Robert became Secretary for the Home Department. We hasten to introduce the reader to the characters and scenes so vividly reproduced in these volumes, and so eminently worthy of reproduction:—and will confine ourselves in the present notice to the life of Alexander Wedderburn, afterwards Lord Loughborough; who in January 1793, after many a disappointment, reached, by no honourable road, the culminating point of his ambition, the possession of the Great Seal—being the first Scotchman who had attained that dignity.

The career of Wedderburn was one of professional, but still more of political, adventure—that of a man whose daring was equal to his capacity, possessed of all the bold and dexterous qualities by which, through adverse circumstances, in stormy times, and amidst hosts of rivals, characters of a hardy stamp, cool-headed, and unincumbered with a too sensitive profligacy, push their way to the high places of the world. He was of good extraction—of what the French call “une famille de robe,” or descended, like the Hopes and Dundases, from a line of jurists. His mother was equally celebrated for the care of her children and for her poultry; and the first recorded adventure of young Wedderburn was his bold provocation of a turkey-cock and his narrow escape from the enraged bird.

“When he was between three and four years old, having provoked a fierce Turkey cock, by hallooing to him,—

Bubbly Jock, your wife is a witch,  
And she is going to be burnt with a barrel of pitch,—  
the animal flew at the child, laid him flat on the ground, and seemed disposed to peck his eyes out, when he was saved by his nurse, who rushed in to the rescue with a broom in her hand. A young lad, then acting in the family as assistant to the gardener, having witnessed this scene, and many years afterwards, when passing through London, having been carried into the Court of Chancery to see Lord Loughborough in all his glory, instead of being, as was expected, overwhelmed with admiration and awe,—after he had coolly contemplated him for

some time, at length exclaimed, ‘Weel! Weel! he may be a great man noo, but I mind fine he was aince sair hadden doon by his mither’s bubbly jock!’”

At an early age Wedderburn was sent to the University of Edinburgh; where he not only became socially the friend, but was admitted to the intellectual intimacy, of Robertson, Hume and Adam Smith. Robertson predicted his future eminence. Having been destined to the bar, he commenced his legal studies at the University; and it was there that he “laid in the chief stock of law on which he traded,” says Lord Campbell, “for the rest of his days.” It has been stated by Lord Brougham that Wedderburn had no thought of trying his fortune in England until his well-known quarrel with Lockhart;—but this his present biographer proves to be a mistake. The notion had been conceived much earlier—but was rudely disconcerted by Hume Campbell, a friend of his father, who even pronounced Alexander “a hopeless dunce,” and suggested that he should be sent to sea or that a commission in the army should be procured for him. This might have daunted a less confident spirit; but young Wedderburn possessed in abundance what Bacon calls the chief quality for civil business and advancement. He made an experimental trip to London; and it is curious to see in what the young Scotsman of those days thought, or found, that the principal difficulty of succeeding in England consisted.

“The chief obstacle he dreaded was his defective knowledge and vicious pronunciation of the vernacular tongue. Although he could write English, as well as Latin, with tolerable purity, in common conversation he was often reduced to great embarrassment from not being sure that he knew how to express himself properly about the most trifling matters; and he could easily perceive that, notwithstanding the politeness of the Englishmen he met, they had great difficulty in commanding their gravity when he spoke in the native accent of the Canongate, and still more when he rashly attempted to imitate them, and came out with the jargon called ‘High English.’”

In 1753 he entered the Inner Temple, but was not called to the English bar until four years later. During the interval he lived in Edinburgh; practised at the Scotch bar; distinguished himself as an orator in the General Assembly (particularly by his speech in defence of David Hume); was a prominent member of the Poker Club (aptly so termed, as it was expressly formed to *stir up* national discontent)—also of another institution called the Select Society; and being eager at that period for literary as well as legal renown, he became editor of the original *Edinburgh Review*, a half-yearly periodical started by the last-named association,—but which, having incurred the hostility of the fanatical clergy, was discontinued after the second number. The preface to the first number was written by the future chancellor,—as well as a review of a work upon the rudiments of the Greek tongue. The particulars related of the meetings of the Select Society are singular and interesting. We find Adam Smith presiding at their second meeting, and proposing for debate the question, “Whether bounties on the exportation of corn be advantageous?” But neither Smith nor Hume ever took part in the discussions of the society, although frequently present at its meetings. In the list of questions commonly debated we find the following: “Whether an union with Ireland would be advantageous to Great Britain?”—and this odd one, “Whether a Foundling Hospital erected at Edinburgh and supported by a tax upon old bachelors would tend to the prosperity of Scotland?” The history of the Select Society is given in detail. Lord Campbell tells us that it fell sick, and eventually died

of an insane ambition to “change the spoken language of the country:”—that is to say, to drop the Scottish dialect and accent and “speak as well as write English.” The witty gibes of Charles Townsend were the origin of this strange movement: to which a further impulse was given by old Sheridan (father of Richard Brinsley),—“who came to Edinburgh to deliver lectures on elocution; and, speaking with a strong Irish brogue, undertook to teach all the delicacies of English intonation.” The anxiety of Wedderburn to leave his Scottish accent behind him when he went to settle in England was extreme. He was Sheridan’s most zealous pupil; and we find him subsequently, in London, not only availing himself of the lectures of the same preceptor, but, oddly enough, taking lessons in elocution from another Irishman, the celebrated player Macklin. Lord Campbell, however, observes,—

“It is very doubtful whether Garrick or Kemble would have succeeded better than the two Hibernians.—We must likewise recollect that they introduced their pupil to their histrionic associates, and that he became a frequenter of the Green-Room, where he could advantageously practise some of the rules they had laid down for him. Through these means the effect of Wedderburn’s eloquence ceased to be at all impaired by pronunciation; and his vicious manner became polished and impressive. But still there never flowed from him a natural stream of eloquence; he always seemed studying how he could give most effect to his expressions, and, unless when he was occasionally impassioned, his manner was precise and affected. While his transformation was at all events gratifying to his vanity, there may be some doubt how far it was the foundation, as is generally supposed, of his good fortune; for his old schoolfellow Harry Dundas, who took no thought about such things, and ever continued to talk as broad Scotch as when they were under the discipline of Mr. Barclay at Dalkeith, was listened to with equal favour in the House of Commons, and enjoyed more power and influence in the State—having been for many years king of Scotland, and guiding with the younger Pitt the destinies of the empire.”

Wedderburn was not very particular about either the directness or the cleanliness of the paths which he took to advancement. He canvassed for briefs; but not having law enough to enable him to dispense with the lever of politics, he became a partisan of Lord Bute, and by his influence made his way into the House of Commons. In 1763 he donned the silk gown; and in the same year, impudently violating all professional rules and usages, he suddenly thrust himself into the place vacated by Sir Fletcher Norton upon the Northern Circuit. But he succeeded better in Chancery and in the House of Commons than as a *Nisi-Pruis* lawyer. Wheeling suddenly round, he became a flaming patriot; and espoused the cause of Wilkes with that affected impetuosity which in the outset of his life masked the calculating shrewdness of his character: displaying on this popular ground a power of eloquence of which it is to be regretted that we have now no proofs but the recorded opinions of some of his most eminent cotemporaries. Wedderburn, indeed, promised at this time to prove a formidable rival to the great demagogue and mountebank of the day. On vacating the Tory borough of Richmond, he received the honours of political martyrdom at the *Thatched House* Tavern. How he figured there is thus described:—

“They drank his health with three times three, under the title of ‘THE STEWARD OF THE CHILTERN HUNDREDS’; and he made a very inflammatory reply, denouncing in no measured terms the usurpation of the rights of the people by their own representatives, and concluding with this oath of abjuration suitably taken by him on receiving an office from the Crown, for which he had vacated his seat

'I do from my soul denounce, detest, and abjure as unconstitutional and illegal, that damnable doctrine and position, that a resolution of the House of Commons can make, alter, suspend, abrogate, or annihilate the law of the land.' Whereupon he kissed the bottle. Various other toasts were given to testify the attachment of the meeting to the cause which Wedderburn had so nobly defended; such as—'The rights of the electors!' 'The law of the land!' 'The immortal memory of Lord Chief Justice Holt!'—all introduced by speeches eulogizing the new patriot's exertions and his sacrifices. It is said that Wilkes himself became a little jealous of this 'North Briton,' for though not much of a Wilkite, he would not like to have been superseded as the most notorious public man of the day.'

Wedderburn continued to be a most consistent and active champion of the people until the time came for deserting them to advantage. He panegyrized the liberty of the press; sided with America; clamoured for the rights of juries; acted the part of liberal and demagogue to admiration; all the while having his eye notoriously fixed upon the Solicitor-Generalship—for which, in the fulness of time, he rated to Lord North in the most shameless manner.—

'Great was the public indignation when the result was known; and this must be confessed to be one of the most flagrant cases of *rating* recorded in our party annals. There not only was no change in the Government, but there was no change of circumstances or of policy,—and a solitary patriot was to cross the floor of the House of Commons that he might support the measures which he had so loudly condemning. His own saying was now in everybody's mouth: 'Bit by the tarantula of Opposition, he is cured by the music of the Court.' Perhaps there was nothing more cutting than Lord Camden's remark, in sending the intelligence to Lord Chatham: 'I am not surprised, but grieved.'

Here is a picture of the parliamentary embarrassments of an apostate:—

"Mr. Solicitor vacating his seat, was re-elected for Bishop's Castle without opposition; but he had before him the disagreeable prospect of walking up to the table between two Treasury members, his liberal associates now shunning him, and to slink down on the Treasury bench between Lord North and John Robinson. He dreaded that opposing parties, suspending their general hostility, would, on this occasion, interchange well understood looks, occasioned by mutual wonderment at his apostacy. When the time came he is said virtuously to have blushed, and to have appeared much distressed, till his colleague Thurlow shook him by the hand, and with an oath welcomed him to that side of the House which he ought never to have quitted. He, for some time, wore an embarrassed air, and when he had anything to say, he seemed to have lost all his fluency."

Wedderburn was now as furious an assailant of all popular principles and interests as before he was their loud advocate. He thundered against the press in Parliament and against Franklin in the Privy Council; supported coercion in America; and defended the corruptions of the pension-list with a bronze which even then excited astonishment. But in all these courses the brilliancy of his talents gilded his profligacy. The incidents of an unprincipled career, alternately illustrated by talents of the first order and darkened by tergiversation and improbity equally remarkable, form the matter of a most attractive story—and Lord Campbell has woven one out of them.

The year 1780 saw Wedderburn Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and a peer of the realm. Here is his portrait as a common law judge:—

"As a common law judge he did not stand very high in public estimation, although he displayed some important qualifications for his office and his conduct was not liable to any serious charge. He was above all suspicion of corruption,—he was courteous, patient, and impartial,—being neither led astray by the influence of others, nor by ill temper, prejudice, favouritism, or caprice. His manner was

most dignified, and from his literary stores, and his acquaintance with the world, he threw a grace over the administration of justice which it sometimes sadly wants when the presiding 'puisne' has spent the whole of his life in drawing and arguing pleas and demurrers. By the consent of all, Lord Loughborough came up to the notion of a consummate magistrate when the cause turned entirely upon facts. These he perceived with great quickness and accuracy, and in his summing up he arranged them in lucid order, and detailed them with admirable perspicuity as well as elegance,—so as almost with certainty to bring the jury to a right verdict—instead of wearying and perplexing them by reading over the whole of his notes of the evidence, interlarding it with twaddling comments. But it was soon discovered that he was sadly deficient in a knowledge of the common law, and no confidence was reposed in his decisions. He must have been aware of this defect himself, and if he had supplied it (as he might have done) with the energy he had displayed in getting rid of his Scotch accent, he would have rivalled Mansfield; but he did not consider professional ignorance a bar to the accomplishment of his ambitious projects. The Great Seal was his dream by night, and the subject of his daily contemplations, and this was to be gained—not by a reputation for black-letter lore, but by struggling for a high station in the House of Lords, and by watching and improving party vicissitudes."

In 1783, on the resignation of Lord Shelburne and the formation of the Coalition Government, Wedderburn clutched in imagination the Great Seal; but he was only made First Commissioner. It was something, however, to touch the coveted bauble! We come now to another phase of his many-coloured life, and behold him in the character of a devoted Foxite.—

"By degrees the Tory section of the Coalition almost entirely disappeared, and Loughborough became a regular, zealous, and seemingly attached Foxite, having no scruples about parliamentary reform or any other Whig measure. Strange to say, Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, and Mr. Sheridan seem to have admitted him to their confidence without the slightest suspicion or misgiving, as if he had always been a consistent politician and they had never differed with him. He was considered the leader of the Whig party in the House of Lords, and he had great influence respecting all their movements."

The Whigs at this period "took the discreditable course," as Lord Campbell fairly acknowledges, "of opposing Mr. Pitt's measure for a free trade between England and Ireland: but we cannot be surprised to find Wedderburn, although the friend and pupil of Adam Smith, supporting them, and supporting them violently. Lord Campbell says 'he fears he was now speaking against his better judgment, for he had learned better principles from David Hume and Adam Smith, and from the debates of the Select Society.'

In 1788 the Great Seal again glittered close to Wedderburn's eyes,—but again he was doomed to disappointment. This was the period of the illness of George the Third. Mr. Fox was in Italy. Lord Campbell is justified in saying that he throws "a flood of new light" upon the transactions of this juncture,—at which Lord Loughborough as the adviser of the Prince (through the medium of his private secretary, Mr. J. W. Payne) played clandestinely a singular and audacious part. He pressed upon the Prince of Wales "to supersede the jurisdiction of Parliament, and by his own authority to place himself upon the throne during his father's lifetime." The following extracts, one from a letter of Lord Loughborough to Payne, the other from a private memorandum of his Lordship, reveal the nature of the *coup d'état* meditated:—

"I consider that there are but three possible events in immediate expectation:—an ambiguous state of the King's disorder; an evidently decided

state; or a sudden termination, which can be looked for only in one way; for an entire and speedy recovery seems to be beyond the reach of any reasonable hope. In the first two cases, it is the result of my most deliberate judgment that the administration of government is as directly cast upon the heir apparent as the right to the crown is, in the last case. All are alike the act of God, and the law of England knows no interval in which there can be an interregnum—but holding, as I do, the principle of right to be as distinct and plain in the extraordinary, as it unquestionably is in the ordinary case of a demise, it must be allowed that there would be some material difference in effect. No precedent can be found except one little known, and in times where both the frame of the government and the manners of the age were so little similar to what they now are, that it would be of no authority. In a case, therefore, supposed to be new, men would be for a moment uncertain by what rule they were to be guided, and upon a suspicion of an ambiguous state of the disorder, great industry would be used to prolong the state of suspense. Every appearance of favourable intervals would be magnified, and the apprehension of a change would be studiously excited to prevent the public opinion from attaching itself to the apparent acting power. To oppose this, great spirit and steadiness would be necessary; but I have no doubt that the only measure would be, to assert that authority which no other person has a right to assume, and which, with an united royal family, no opposition would be able to thwart."

The memorandum, written in pencil, is as follows:—

"Upon the supposition of a state of disorder without prospect of recovery or of a speedy extinction, the principle of the P.'s conduct is perfectly clear. The administration of government devolves to him of right. He is bound by every duty to assume it and his character would be lessened in the public estimation if he took it on any other ground but right, or on any sort of compromise. The authority of Parliament, as the great council of the nation, would be interposed, not to confer, but to declare the right. The mode of proceeding which occurs to my mind is, that in a very short time H.R.H. should signify his intention to act by directing a meeting of the Privy Council, where he should declare his intention to take upon himself the care of the State, and should at the same time signify his desire to have the advice of Parliament, and order it by a proclamation to meet early for despatch of business. That done, he should direct the several Ministers to attend him with the public business of their offices. It is of vast importance in the outset, that he should appear to act entirely of himself, and in the conferences he must necessarily have, not to consult, but to listen and direct. Though the measure of assembling the Council should not be consulted upon, but decided in his own breast, it ought to be communicated to a few persons who may be trusted, a short time before it takes place; and it will deserve consideration whether it might not be expedient very speedily after this measure, in order to mark distinctly the assumption of government, to direct such persons—at least in one or two instances—to be added to what is called the Cabinet, as he thinks proper. By marking a determination to act of himself, and by cautiously avoiding to raise strong fear or strong hope, but keeping men's minds in expectation of what may arise out of his reserve, and in a persuasion of his general candour, he will find all men equally observant of him."

The return of Mr. Fox from Italy dispersed such dreams as these. Wedderburn, however, seemed still on the eve of attaining the summit of his desires; but fortune had still some tricks to play him. Just as Queen Mab had installed him first Chancellor under the Regency, the recovery of the King again blasted his hopes. His chagrin may be conceived;—as he had all but appointed his secretary, nominated his purse-bearer, and disposed of several legal offices and church preferments! Crooked as his path was, it led to the Chancellorship at last. The French Revolution broke up the Whig party; and Lord Loughborough, revolting at the head

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of the alarmist section, possessed himself of the prize to which he had dedicated life and immortal character. The quotation was as ripe as it was opposite—

Thou hast it now—  
—and I fear  
Thou play'dst most foully for it.

The author observes—

"No political embarrassment—no visitation from Heaven—now frustrated his hopes,—and on the 28th day of January, 1793, at Buckingham Palace, the Great Seal was actually delivered into his hands by George III. Carrying it home in his coach, he exultingly showed it to Lady Loughborough, though he afterwards declared he was still a little afraid that he might awake and find that he had once more been deluded by a pleasing dream. He never acknowledged to others the farther truth, that a few days' possession showed to him the utter worthlessnes of the object for which he had made such exertions and such sacrifices."

To the vulgar opinions on the subject of worldly success as it is influenced by moral worth, by all that passes under the general name of honesty, the fortunes of Alexander Wedderburn give a flat practical contradiction. Wholly destitute of principle, he made himself Lord High Chancellor of England. By honesty he might, it is true, with the talents which he possessed, have attained great eminence:—the fact and certainty, however, is that by craft, hollowness and improbity he reached the highest civil dignity attainable by a British subject. The history of such a man appears at a superficial view to be of bad example. It would be so undoubtedly if high station were infallibly happiness,—if power were true prosperity—if there wanted nothing but wealth, eminence and temporal glory to constitute the real felicity of a human being. Lord Campbell speculates on what Loughborough might have achieved had he been as upright as he was the contrary,—had he in 1771 resisted the enticements of Lord North, or had he subsequently adhered to the Tories instead of coalescing with Mr. Fox. He might have been Chancellor in either case; but he could not have been more in either. The truth and the deep moral lies in the following reflection:—

"At all events, what was this bauble, accompanied with reproaches of treachery, and the suspicions and mistrust and equivocal looks of his new friends, compared to the esteem of good men and the self-respect which he sacrificed to obtain it?"

Then, was ever a fall more undignified? Did ever great man appear so little as did Lord Chancellor Loughborough at what the author calls the "sad catastrophe" of his life,—the moment when he surrendered the Great Seal into the hands of the recovered monarch, who received it with words of courtesy on his lips but undisguised satisfaction triumphing in his eye? All sense of dignity seemed extinguished in this unhappy favourite of fortune. He persisted in attending the cabinet after he ceased to be Chancellor,—and imposed upon Lord Sidmouth the painful necessity of writing him a letter of formal dismissal from the King's councils. Nor was this all: his retirement was to a villa with no charm to recommend it but its neighbourhood to a court where he was the sovereign's scorn and the courtier's jest. He dangled after royalty at Windsor, and tottered after it to Weymouth,—made happy by a smile from a terrace and exulting in a command to a dinner.

The day before his death he dined with the King and Queen at Frogmore. When the news of the event was brought to George the Third, the monarch exclaimed—"Then he has not left a greater knave behind him in my dominions." This was Wedderburn's epitaph by a royal author!

*On the Theory of the Moon and on the Perturbations of the Planets.* By Sir J. W. Lubbock, Bart. Part V. Knight & Co.

THE recent discoveries of new planets are connected with a powerful and rapid impetus given of late years to many departments of astronomical research. The labours of Hencke, Leverrier, Adams, and Hind have made us so familiar with such things, that they have almost ceased to be wonders—and we look over the newspapers and scientific journals to learn, as a matter of course, what new bodies have been found, and expect the new planet almost as regularly as the new moon. The memoir at the head of this notice is a paper characteristic of this singular stage of astronomical science. It is one of the indications that the miracles of astronomy are more matters of every-day business than many suppose,—and one sort of ready reckoner for keeping their accounts.

All who know the process by which Leverrier and Adams hunted down the planet when once they had got on the scent of it must have felt that it involved an amount of physical and mathematical labour which none but an intellectual Hercules could have achieved. To find the trail of the erratic body, they set on it a pack of formulae so numerous and powerful, and worked them so hard, that it was scarcely possible (we now say) for the game to escape. While we hear of the manner in which they dodged round the corners of the solar system as the hunted body neared one planet after another in its eccentric revolutions, we are convinced that so to follow this celestial chace required a strength, speed, and endurance of mathematical labour of the most arduous and exhausting description. While these most *algebraical* of the followers of Newton were hunting, and successfully hunting, as unknown quantities the constants which their predecessors found it took all their strength and skill to use when known, and conquering the inverse problem the direct one to which was the greatest triumph of the last century,—Sir John Lubbock was elaborating a new method of attacking even the latter. Such methods are not for even the omniscience of reviewers to decide upon. Their merits can only be finally decided by those who have used them,—not even by those who *can*, so long as they *have not*. But we do know that the astronomical world has a very high opinion of the value of the suggestion and of the manner in which its author has presented its working details.

We should not be thanked by our readers were we to transfer a full account to our columns. We can merely explain that this is one of a series of papers 'On the Theory of the Moon and the Perturbations of the Planets' which have been succinctly published in an accessible form by the same author. The accuracy with which astronomical calculations give for an indefinite time the places of the older planets is at present sufficient for all the purposes of astronomy; and it is wonderful how manifest this is in the precise predictions of our eclipses, our tables for finding the longitude, and other similar cases where the value of such predictions is felt in the uses of common life. This result of the uninterrupted labours of Sir Isaac Newton and of his followers is justly regarded as one of the triumphs of human intelligence. These methods, however, have been found more difficult and less effective for determining the place at all times of comets or planets moving in highly eccentric and inclined orbits—a problem presenting far greater difficulty. Mr. Hansen is the only great mathematician who has hitherto professed to give a

solution of it otherwise than by what are called *quadratures*. This process is one which, even while sufficiently effective, is considered by the mathematician as involving *something* of the shame of a defeat;—though in truth it is by a high refinement of mathematical skill that the rest of that shame is avoided. But where it is not fully effective there is some of the shame and the loss both. Sir John Lubbock, without any undue pretension, adds his contribution towards the reduction of the excentric cases to the methods of the ordinary ones. "If," says he, "I ascribe to them, I hope the time is not distant when the perturbations of Pallas and of some of the comets may be reduced to a tabular form;—but the labour required will be very considerable."

Instead of attempting a literal developement, Sir John Lubbock adopts an arithmetical one,—inserts the numerical values of the elliptic constants in the earliest possible stage,—and, so to speak, does the arithmetic as he goes on. His co-efficients are, therefore, numerical throughout. Tables of numerical co-efficients are calculated for those fundamental developements with which the reader of Laplace is so well acquainted; and tables of special constants are calculated for the planets and several comets. By performing an arithmetical developement according to the rules which the author has invented, not only is no quantity introduced which has a numerical value beneath any given limit (say beneath unity in a given decimal place), but it is equally impossible except by numerical mistake that any quantity above that limit can be omitted. By the use of tables, not only is labour saved, but the use of figures affords an insurance against casual algebraical error which ordinary developement cannot supply. Nor is it only the substitution of one chance of error for another;—the arithmetical risks must come at last, in any case.

*The Old Convents of Paris*, by Madame Charles Reybaud; and *The Haunted Marsh*, by George Sand.—*The Memoirs of a Physician*, by A. Dumas. Vol. II. Simms & M'Intyre.

The first two of these titles indicate the contents of Vol. 8, as the third does of Vol. 10, of 'The Parlour Library.' All who appreciate delicacy of colouring, refinement of tone, truth of feeling, and that individuality without which the best novel is somewhat flavourless, will join us, we feel little doubt, in being pleased with Madame Reybaud's two tales of 'The Old Convents of Paris.' An old Nunnery has an air as peculiar as an old Palace,—is a repository of as many stories; the nature of which will for the most part be melancholy, if it be true that "before repose is reached suffering must have been endured." Again, it is only needful to turn over a few leaves of any of the religious 'Mémoires' which swarm on the bookstalls along the *quais* of the Seine, to understand what a peculiar sharpness of contrast with the contours of the world around it conventional life must have taken in the French metropolis. This Madame Reybaud seems to have thoroughly felt. Like a refined artist, however, she has avoided the grossness and the horrors which the subject and the locality include,—the unlicensed passions and judicial severities, tales of which the walls of those old French convents could tell by thousands had they tongues. Nor does she deal with matters which would have tempted so many of her sister authors on this side of the Channel. She has little or nothing to do with the enmity betwixt Jesuit and Jansenist, or any other subject involving the discussion or exposition of peculiar dogmas. Yet her stories,

if less decided in their spirituality, are as conventional in their tone as the pictures of Philippe de Champagne,—which, encounter them where we will, never fail to arrest us by their striking and not displeasing individuality. They are as distinct from most contemporary Parisian fictions as the Hôtel Clugny from the Maison d'Or or the Hôtel des Princes; and deserve to be rated of their kind as highly as the military tales of Count Alfred de Vigny.

The first of these stories of the Convent is that of an impoverished family of Provençal nobles during the years which preceded the French revolution. It had become necessary for the children of the Baron de Colobrières to leave home for their maintenance. But for the sons and daughters of a poor nobleman, there were but two paths open—one to the field of battle, the other to the cloister; and at the commencement of our story, only one son and daughter among many remain to be thus disposed of. Few more completely finished pictures have been given to the world than the interior of the castle, with its minute economy distinct from miserliness. As a specimen of the effect produced by accumulated touches, it may match with the dismal house of Le Père Grandet; but the spirit of the two descriptions is widely different. M. de Balzac showed us grinding, sordid, intolerable avarice; Madame Reybaud exhibits family pride—inflexible, courteous, reserved, nourished as a virtue;—and the sacrifices which it enjoins considered by the victims as inevitable as death or the changes of wind and weather. One of the Demoiselles de Colobrières— aunt to our heroine—had, however, "once upon a time," asserted that free-will, the existence of which was forbidden by the statutes of the *ancien régime*,—having married an enterprising merchant, who took her with "the tear in her eye," and carried her off at the moment when poverty pressed her hardest and the dread of the cloister was most intolerable. She had become rich and prosperous; but had been rejected by her family as an outcast whose name was never to be mentioned. After many years she re-appears—a wealthy widow, with one daughter and a burgher nephew—purchases back some of the old Colobrières' property, and establishes herself in the neighbourhood of her inflexible brother. The reader will have little trouble in imagining what the events of a drama composed of such persons are likely to be. The young people meet, and fall in love; Anastasia with Dominick Maragnon, a young merchant,—and the Cadet de Colobrières with his cousin, Eleonora, the heiress. This coming to the knowledge of the Baron, he resolves to prevent the possibility of a second disgraceful misalliance by devoting his daughter to a convent in Paris. Hurt at heart by one of those love-misunderstandings without which there could be no romances, Anastasia passively consents. We will glance at the holy house of Notre Dame de la Miséricorde.

"The convent of Notre Dame de la Miséricorde was not one of those pious retreats founded by royal personages, and enriched by their gifts. A devout lady and a pious priest had commenced the building about the middle of the seventeenth century, and at length, with the assistance of Providence, and the alms of the faithful, were enabled to complete it. It was in truth Anne of Austria who had laid the first stone of the church, but her munificence was confined to the gift of some altar ornaments, and the *Maison de Paris* was almost as ill endowed as the other houses of the order, which, although not a mendicant order, was one of the poorest in Christendom. The property of the monastery had scarcely increased with time, and the humble flock presided over by La Mère Angélique did not live in the well-fed indolence of the Bénédictines, the Visitandines, and other com-

munities endowed by opulent benefactors. The nuns of La Miséricorde spent less of their time in the choir than in the workroom; they accomplished perfect marvels of needlework, and created in that material *chefs-d'œuvre* by the side of which those of the Lydian Arachne would have appeared but abortive attempts. Their lives were spent in creating those delicate embroideries and magnificent pieces of lace-work with which the court ladies loved to deck their persons, and which the *grand seigneurs* wore in the shape of frills and ruffles. Many a furbelow at which these cloistered workwomen had laboured for a year, left their pious hands to adorn the short petticoat of a *danseuse*; many a pair of ruffles, the almost impalpable threads of which the young novices had barely completed, were forgotten by some *petit-maître* upon the toilet-table of a marquise, or torn to pieces in a drunken brawl. On leaving the parlour, La Mère Angélique led Mademoiselle de Colobrières through a long dark gallery, on one side of which opened about twenty little doors. These were the dormitories of the sisterhood. In the centre was a large clock surmounted by a cross. A few unframed sheets of canvas, daubed with horrible pictures, decorated the walls; the saints whom they represented seeming to mount sentinel at each door, and to lend an ear to the ticking of the clock, the hand of which marked the seconds of their eternity. An icy chill seemed to exude, as it were, from these tattered canvases, penetrating soul and body. Poor Anastasia again felt the impression she had experienced on passing the cloister door: she paused, shuddering, and said in a faint voice:—"What darkness!—what silence! One might suppose that there was not a creature in the house."—The superior smiled and raised her finger towards the clock, which almost at the same instant struck twelve. The stroke of the hammer was still echoing, when a joyous hum of many voices was heard in the interior of the convent; children's voices were mingled with those of more mature age, and their animated prattle reached even the dormitory gallery. "These are our boarders, whose play-hour has arrived," said La Mère Angélique. "My dear little lambs are playing in the court-yard, and their gaiety spreads through the whole house. You will scarcely ever meet them except in church, my dear daughter; but you will be able to see them laugh and play through the windows of the novice's dormitory; it is an amusement that I will occasionally permit you."—"Thanks, my dear mother," replied Anastasia, who began to perceive that in a convent the most trifling amusements are not to be despised. It was also the hour at which the nuns took their recreation. They had assembled in a room which was called the winter promenade, and which opened upon the garden. This apartment was even more simply decorated than the superior's parlour; the furniture, which had already served several generations of nuns, was composed of a long massive table, and a few oaken benches disposed along the walls. A species of chair marked the place reserved for the superior; but this peculiar seat was neither softer nor more commodious than the benches appropriated to the nuns, and its occupant could not hope to repose very luxuriously upon this solid stool, which nevertheless represented the throne—the throne of an absolute sovereign over her circumscribed empire. The windows were hung with curtains of linen, through which might be perceived the convent garden. Neither was the prospect on this side more cheerful; the walls, whose height surpassed that of the neighbouring houses, formed a regular enclosure, in the centre of which a basin of stagnant water held the place of a fountain. Two alleys, bordered by stunted and distorted lime-trees, which presented much the appearance of two rows of inverted brooms, extended in parallel lines to the end of the garden, and not a blade of grass could be perceived in the huge square which was dignified by the title of the *parterre*. At equal distances against the cloister wall were formed niches of pebbles, ornamented with plaster statuettes and garlands of shells; these were oratories erected by the nuns, who in spring decked them with the languishing flowers which budded in their garden.

\* \* \* The various groups which the arrival of Mademoiselle de Colobrières had disturbed were formed anew, and the nuns recommenced chattering away with that eagerness peculiar to persons condemned every day to several hours of silence. Their inno-

cent and childish conversation, and little discreet bursts of laughter might be heard from one end of the hall to the other. Anastasia observed with a certain degree of interest this picture which a painter would have taken pleasure in sketching, for it contained those striking types which are to be met with only in the cloister. A few venerable sisters, seated together upon the same bench, were deplored the sudden disappearance of a huge black cat, an inmate of the house, who for the last three days had not been seen in the refectory. They spoke of him as a prodigal son, and were gravely indignant at his misconduct. Behind these discreet personages, two young nuns were conversing together in a low voice. The poor girls added perhaps an additional pleasure to this recreation by conversing upon forbidden topics. Further off, the novices were busily engaged in cutting out their agnuses, while relating to Anastasia some one of those histories which are handed down by tradition in all convents. One of them, a fair, pale-cheeked girl, was seated apart near the window. A large volume lay open upon her knees, while her eyes followed with a me-ancholy expression the sparrows, who after having for a moment alighted in the garden, would again wing their flight over the wall. \* \* \* It was almost night when the bell called the nuns into the choir. Mademoiselle de Colobrières followed them thither, and at a sign from the superior took her place near the grating on the novices' side. It was the first act of her religious life, and she felt herself impressed with a strange feeling of sadness and fear while kneeling for the first time in the sacristy, at the foot of that altar where she was to pronounce her vows. Never had the thought of this dreaded engagement struck her as it did at this moment; never had she so clearly perceived the entire extent of her sacrifice. In vain she endeavoured to join in the prayers of the nuns; her lips alone murmured the psalms of the Virgin's office; she could not attain that degree of *inward* prayer, which comes from the heart alone, and despite all her efforts to the contrary, her eyes wandered over surrounding objects with a sort of painful curiosity. Daylight was now gone, and the twilight which struggled through the windows scarcely permitted the enclosure of the choir to be visible. The nuns, erect in their stalls, their eyes half closed, their formulaires in their hands, chanted from memory the service which their rule obliged them to recite each day. Through the grating which separated the choir from the church might be distinguished a portion of the nave faintly illuminated by the lamp which burned before the high altar. A few devout women, kneeling at the foot of the holy table and shivering with cold, were saying their prayers and repeating their responses after the nuns. At one corner of the choir and near the grating, stood a little altar surrounded by funeral symbols, upon which burned a taper whose pale ray disclosed the miniature effigy of a coffined figure enveloped in a winding sheet, the brow encircled with palm leaves, and the hands grasping a crucifix. When Anastasia perceived this gloomy figure she no longer turned away her eyes; it was an enigma the solution of which she sought in vain to divine. One of the novices perceiving her absence of mind, said in a low voice, touching her elbow as she spoke:—"Pay attention, my dear sister; they are about to rise for the *Verbla Regis*. And as Anastasia pointed towards the lugubrious figure, looking at her at the same time inquiring, she added:—"It is the effigy of our holy founder, Father Ivan, whose relics we are fortunate enough to possess. He is interred there in the hollow of the wall."

Perhaps the gentle depressing monotony of such a scene has not often been more felicitously touched. Yet it is different in its colouring from the scenery of "Féline"—Madame Reybaud's second convent story: and those who interest themselves in comparison may find worse amusement than by turning from these tales to the *Diaries and Letters of Bettina von Arnim*,—in which cloister-life in Germany is very graphically described.

We will not reveal what befalls Anastasia in her new home, for two good reasons. One of these is, that so fine an artist as Madame Reybaud in most respects proves herself should be ashamed of the hasty, breathless,

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melo-dramatic and artificial manner in which she cuts short, rather than winds up, her tales. We have never met with a Canoness—and these are precisely such narratives as a Canoness would delight to tell—who could not teach her the mystery of "beginning, middle, and end" infinitely better than she knows it. The fault is inexcusable, too, inasmuch as these stories do not depend on complications of intrigue,—which many can "cast on," but few know how to unravel neatly and naturally.

Truncated as these tales are, however, they are welcome. Many worthy persons regard a French novel as a sort of Abudah's chest—haunted by an evil spirit—and by no means to be opened. At the same time, French novels are a hundred times more read in England than in the days when a tale by Crébillon was numbered by Gray among the materials for perfect happiness. What then is to be done? It behoves critics to lose no opportunity of discouraging the circulation of what is vitiated by pointing out what is wholesome. We trust that we have not met Madame Charles Reybaud for the last time.

Of the charming tale by George Sand, which is added, we have elsewhere spoken [*ante*, p. 762].—The 'Memoirs of a Physician' [*ante*, p. 464] are continued with wonderful fluency. There is apparently no earthly reason why we should not have ten volumes more of them. The part before us, however, scarcely equals the commencement of the novel. We become wearied of the marvels wrought by Cagliostro's mesmeric power:—the extreme precision of M. Dumas as a narrator being a disadvantage to him when he would treat supernatural matters. In these, as master-magicians have shown us, Fear must have something left to shadow out for itself. Neither is the amazing Dubarry, in this second volume, equal to her former self when skirmishing with the Countess de Béarn. There is a good study of Rousseau: and (for fiction) a warrantable employment of the dark portents that attended the entrance of Marie Antoinette into France, and of the intrigues of which she was from the first moment the centre. In short, we can read as many more volumes of these 'Memoirs' as M. Dumas is willing to write.

We cannot take our leave for the year of 'The Parlour Library' without commanding the spirit and enterprise with which it is carried on. To follow these translations from the best French novels and reprints of tales by accredited authors, the proprietors announce another original novel by Mr. Carleton for their January number, at the almost fabulous price of *one shilling!* Nothing but an enormous circulation can keep this work alive—still less, make it a remunerating property.

*The Eve of the Conquest, and other Poems.* By Henry Taylor. Moxon.

THE chief claim of this little book on our attention is the name of its author. Its title-page recommends it more than its contents. The conspicuous merits which belong to the author of 'Philip van Artevelde' are scarcely suggested anywhere but on that page.

The volume before us is small but not unambitious. It deals with the character and fate of the last Saxon king, and winds up the tale of a dynasty. The hero, the martyr, the patriot, and the friend are severally commemorated in its pages; and the influence of travel and the recollections of boyhood are also chronicled there. With such themes, inferiority of treatment can scarcely pretend to the excuse of absence of pretension. Nor, were it otherwise, is such a plea admissible where the poetic character is assumed. The pretensions of poetry—

even the simplest—should be great. To discern and reveal inner and essential life, however humble the form which it underlies, is no common function.

It is not to be denied that we meet in these pages with much that is elegant in design and with occasional passages of genuine feeling:—but they cannot redeem the general faintness of conception and illustration. From the poem which gives its title to the book we extract the following delicate image in the writer's description of *Adeliza*, the daughter of the Conqueror:—

A woman-child she was: but womanhood  
By gradual afflux on her childhood gain'd,  
And like a tide that up a river steals  
And reaches to a lilled bank, began  
To lift up life beneath her.

And there is wholesome truth as well as real pathos in the following, taken from the sketch entitled 'Ernesto':—

The tree  
Sucks kindlier nurture from a soil enriched  
By its own fallen leaves; and man is made  
In heart and spirit from deciduous hopes  
And things that seem to perish.

Such passages as the foregoing are, however, rare. The poetry of the volume is for the most part of the kind which has been denominated *unnecessary*. The quotation that follows may serve as an example of the very negative character of the Muse with which we have here to deal.—

*Lines written after visiting the Grave of Olympia Morata at Heidelberg.*

A tombstone in a foreign land cries out,  
Oh Italy! against thee: She whose death  
This stone commemorates with no common praise,  
By birth was thine: but being vowed to Truth,  
The blood-stained hand that lurks beneath thine alb  
Was raised to strike; and lest one crime the more  
Should stand in thine account to heaven, she fled.  
Then hither came she, young but eruditte,  
With ardour flushed, but with old wisdom stored,  
(Which spoke no tongue she knew not) apt to learn  
And eloquent to teach,—and welcomed here  
Gave the brief beauty of her innocent life  
An alien race to illustrate, and here  
Dying in youth (the beauty of death)  
Sealing her life's repute) her ashes gave  
An honour to the Land that honoured her.

—Jerusalem! Jerusalem! which killst  
The Prophets! if thy house be desolate,  
Those temples too are desolate and that land  
Where Truth's pure votaries may not leave their dust.

Surely this subject was capable of a worthier elucidation.

'Alwine and Adelais' is a graceful intention—tamely executed. The concluding stanzas of the 'Lago Lugano,'—the lines commencing 'Soft be thy voice,'—and those dedicated to 'St. Helen's-Auckland,' may deserve to be included amongst the selected beauties of their author. The first-mentioned poem ends as follows:—and while refusing sympathy to some of its axioms, we instance it for its thoughtful character:—

Oh England! "Merry England," styled of yore!

Where is thy mirth? The jocund laughter where?

The sweat of labour on the brow of care

Makes a mute answer—driven from every door!

The pale pole cheers the village green no more,

Nor harvest-home, nor Christmas mummings rare.

The tired mechanic at his lecture sighs,

And of the learned, which, with all his lore,

Has leisure to be wise?

Civil and moral liberty are twain:

That truth the careless countenances free

Of Italy avouched; that truth did we,

On converse grounds and with reluctant pain,

Confess that England proved. "Wash first the stain

Of worldliness away; when that shall be,

Us shall "the glorious liberty" befit

Whereof, in other far than earthly strain,

The Jew of Tarsus writh.

So shall the noble natures of our land

(Oh, nobler and more deeply founded far

Than any horn beneath a southern star)

Move more at large; be open, courteous, bland,

Be simple, cordial, not more strong to each jar

Than just to yield,—nor obvious to each jar

That shakes the proud; for Independence walks

With staid Humility aye hand in hand,

Whilst Pride in tremor stalks.

From pride plebeian and from pride high-born,

From pride of knowledge no less vain and weak,

From overstrained activities that seek

Ends worthiest of indifference or scorn,

From pride of intellect that exults its horn

In contumely above the wise and meek,

Exulting in coarse cruelties of the pen,  
From pride of drudging souls to Mammon sworn,  
Where shall we flee and when?

\* \* \* \* \*

Thus pou'd we forth our hearts: but now 'twas late;  
The stars were fully out, and other light  
Was none; in secret sessions of the night  
The mountains closing kept a gloomier state.  
A boat, whose oars with punctual sound sedate  
Seemed like the pulse of silence, stole in sight  
And sped us to the town.—End, end they must,  
Such days! But lasting are the gains and great  
They leave behind in trust.

We quote entire—

*St. Helen's-Auckland.*  
I wander o'er each well-known field,  
My boyhood's home in view,  
And thoughts that were as fountains sealed  
Are welling forth anew.

The ancient house, the aged trees,  
They bring again to light  
The years that like a summer's breeze  
Were trackless in their flight.

How much is changed of what I see,  
How much more changed am I,  
And yet how much is left—to me  
How is the distant nigh!

The walks are overgrown and wild,  
The terrace flags are green—  
But I am once again a child,  
I am what I have been.

The sounds that round about me rise  
Are what none other hears;  
I see what meets no other eyes,  
Though mine are dim with tears.

The breaking of the summer's morn—  
The tinge on house and tree—  
The billowy clouds—the beauty born  
Of that celestial sea,

The freshness of the faery land  
Lit by the golden gleam  
It is my youth that where I stand  
Surrounds me like a dream.

Alas, the real never lent  
Those tints, too bright to last;  
They fade, and bid me rest content  
And let the past be past.

The wave that dances to the breast  
Of earth, can ne'er be stayed;  
The star that glitters in the crest  
Of morning, needs must fade:

But then shall flow another tide,  
So let me hope, and far  
Over the outstretched waters wide  
Shall shine another star.

In every change of Man's estate  
Are lights and guides allowed;  
The fiery pillar will not wait,  
But parting, sends the cloud.

Nor mourn I the less manly part  
Of life to leave behind;  
My loss is but the lighter heart,  
My gain the graver mind.

To the concluding line we are disposed to take an exception,—chiefly, however, as finding it on Mr. Taylor's page. The "graver mind" is scarcely a blessing in itself;—and to the undue value which this writer assigns it may be traced many of his present shortcomings. In the drama of 'Philip van Artevelde,' the variety of character and event elicited energy and feeling, if not imagination, from a stored and thoughtful spirit. Unfortunately, these later compositions lack the happy stimulant of incident. The poet is no longer bound to translate himself into the being of others. The necessity for effort is diminished,—and with it the vigour which that necessity called forth. A state of philosophic calm is with Mr. Taylor the summit of poetic genius. This doctrine, which he has formally stated in a previous work, is implied and illustrated in the present. To the mere definition we might have little to object. The highest frame of poetry is serene,—but it is a serenity attained not by the repression of enthusiasm but by the experience which that generates. There is wisdom in Genius,—but, developed from the quick sense of life, its intensest joys, its keenest agonies. The poet knows more than others,—because he feels more and suffers more. He utters oracles,—but, like those of the Pythian, they are often inspired by pain. Through the cloud and sunshine, the stillness and the storm, he reaches to the expanse beyond; but still remembers the region

which he has left, and knows that the blue heaven was never diviner than when it gleamed through the shifting rack. He is ordained to teach mankind because he has fathomed humanity.

This personal realization of human conflict is precisely what we think Mr. Taylor would avoid. He will not buffet the waves of emotion. He sits on the rock of Rational Equilibrium, and beholds their dashings. But can he thus tell the rapture of the swimmer when he darts upon the shore? Heart secrets cannot be learnt by proxy. The finest perceptions when merely speculative are at fault here. The drama of life to be known must be acted. But little is learnt by sitting in a private box and watching passion through an opera-glass.

*The History of Barbados; comprising a Geographical and Statistical Description of the Island, a Sketch of the Historical Events since the Settlement, and an Account of its Geology and Natural Productions.* By Sir Robert H. Schomburgk. Longman & Co.

The history of Barbados has frequently been written,—but never before now in a full, critical, and satisfactory manner. Few British colonies of nearly equal importance have found so many chroniclers as this small island,—none have furnished more contradictory and recriminative accounts. Several causes have contributed to this result. It was one of our earliest settlements in Southern America; it was the first place in the British dependencies in which the sugar-cane was planted; and—still more prolific cause of its subsequent internal antagonisms—it became, during the period of the great Civil Wars in England, one of the chief strongholds of the Royalists in the colonies and an extensive asylum for the expatriated adherents of the king's party. During the seventeenth century the emigration was so great that Oldmixon, in his account of 'The British Empire in America,' says there were in his time as many "good families" in Barbados as in any county in England; an expression which the facts of the case would go a long way to justify,—although its author is little to be relied on generally where statistics are concerned. These peculiar circumstances, however,—more especially the last-named—while they tend to concentrate a larger amount of interest upon the island than perhaps attaches to any of its neighbours in the same seas, render the histories to which they have given rise rabidly partial, and consequently of doubtful value. The rancour of partizanship was not exhibited with greater violence amongst writers of English history than it was amongst those of Barbados; and we can very well credit Sir Robert Schomburgk when he says that the labours of his predecessors in the chosen field of his investigations were rather disadvantageous to him than otherwise.

In his preface our author hints a fear that the public may consider his book too large for its subject: but he acted wisely in not permitting that doubt to interfere with the completeness and catholicity of his design,—and we venture to think that his fear will prove to have been unfounded. A more readable and interesting work we have not for a long time met with. Sir Robert is eminently qualified for his task; joining an intimate personal acquaintance with the political, social, and natural history of the island, to habits and opportunities for research,—and adding to these elementary necessities, profound general knowledge of collateral sciences and histories, a systematic method of arrangement, and the command of a clear, rapid, and perspicuous style of disquisition and narration. 'The History of Barbados'

is not only the most scholarly and authentic which has yet been published,—but it is all that could be wished for in its way. It contains the whole of the subject—a matter of vast importance to the inquirer; and may be considered as a model for colonial histories. A smaller volume, if a little less expensive and less bulky, must necessarily have been less perfect: and we apprehend that to be a spurious kind of economy which would sacrifice fulness and thoroughness of execution to such considerations. The best book is always the cheapest in the end. Such a work as this of Sir Robert Schomburgk's on each one of our colonial settlements is a grand desideratum in our national literature; which must one day or other be undertaken by the government, if not executed by private learning and enterprise. The amount of ignorance and indifference prevailing in this country on the subject of our foreign dependencies is a disgrace to us as a people. It is comparatively easy to become well acquainted with the condition of French colonies: but it is almost the labour of a life to get at the truth of our own,—less on account of their extent than of the immense mass and fragmentary character of the materials which it is necessary to master. A series of works like 'The History of Barbados' would present a formidable mass of reading, no doubt; but then it might supersede a whole library of historical fragments, undigested returns, reports, private and parliamentary papers. No part of our method of "instructing the nations how to live" is of so doubtful a nature as our colonial policy;—and the reason is obvious. There is no public opinion on the subject, because there is no popular knowledge. Men must act, whether they know or not. Legislators are required to vote with or without data for judgment. A series of works like this would give such data, and leave official and senatorial ignorance without excuse; as well as tend to create in the national intelligence a power to detect incipient blundering and incapacity before they have time to produce effects that are irretrievable.

The work is divided into three portions. The first part consists of a geographical and general description of the island,—its civil, social, administrative, local, climatic, and meteorological state. The second part contains a full and lucid chronicle of events, political and natural, from the time of the settlement down to the year 1846. The third is occupied with remarks on its geological formations and an account of its natural history and productions. Various appendices are added, which also contain much interesting information.

Barbados is the most eastern of the group of islands known to English geographers under the title of the Caribee Islands, and to continental ones under that of the Lesser Antilles. It lies somewhat out of the chain of these islands—St. Vincent being the nearest land, at about seventy-eight miles distance. Its geographical position on the surface of the globe is not accurately known,—a fact rendered the more remarkable by its being an important military and nautical station. Lieut. Raper's "Maritime Positions" sets it down at lat.  $13^{\circ} 5'$  north and long.  $59^{\circ} 37'$  west of Greenwich—taken at the Engineers' Wharf, near Bridgetown: but other authorities differ from him. Surely this is a question to be set at rest. The date of the discovery of Barbados is not known. Encyclopædist and general historians have hitherto supposed that no mention whatever is made of the island before the year 1600; but Sir Robert has shown by a tracing from a manuscript map in the British Museum that it was known in the middle of the 16th century—if not in its earlier decades. The first

settlement probably took place in 1625; when about thirty Englishmen and eight Negroes landed and took possession of the country. Its general characteristics are thus depicted.—

"The outline of the island forms almost an irregular triangle; its greatest length, running from the South Point to Cave Point in a direction north by west half west, is nearly twenty-one English miles; the points of extreme breadth in a direct east and west line are between Kitridge Point and a point above Bar Rock on the lee coast, a distance of about fourteen and a half miles. There is, however, no point from which a similar breadth could be carried across; and as the coast extends north-west by west from Kitridge Point, it decreases rapidly; and the parish of St. Lucy averages scarcely four miles and a half in breadth. The circumference of the island is 55 English miles, excluding the sinuosities of the bays; and it contains, according to Mayo, a superficial area of 106,470 acres, or about 166 square miles. I cannot give a better idea of Barbados, both in size and in some measure in its outline, than by comparing it to the Isle of Wight, which is about 21 miles in length and 13 in breadth. It is almost encircled by coral reefs, which in some parts, as in the parish of St. Philip, extend for nearly three miles to seaward, and prove very dangerous to the navigation. The shore rises boldly to a height of from 30 to 50 feet on the northern point, and on the south-eastern part of the parish of St. Philip; but otherwise we find long lines of sandy beaches, which are protected against the encroachments of the sea by coral reefs. Although no very high summits are to be found in Barbados, the term flatness applied to the island would not convey a proper idea of its aspect. We find perhaps in no other island so many instances, on a small scale, of the geographical denominations of valley, hill, table-land, cliffs, gorges and ravines, as in Barbados. The low-lands are of comparatively limited extent, and are restricted to the northern, southern, and south-eastern parts of the island. Mount Hillaby is the highest elevation; its summit is, according to Captain Barrallier, 1147-55 feet above the sea. If we choose this point as our station, we observe clearly two structures well defined and geologically different from each other. A narrow strip of land runs parallel to the west, with the coast from north to south. We may easily trace it from Bridgetown to almost the extreme end of the island, where in the neighbourhood of Harrison's a bold bluff point ends it, from whence the coast assumes the rugged outlines which cliff of soft material generally present, where encroached upon by the battering power of the breakers of a stormy sea. From the west or leeward coast, the ground rises in very distinct successive terraces to the central ridge. These terraces are interrupted by ravines (called gullies in the island). If we turn now to the east, an aspect of a quite different nature presents itself; we see before us a mountainous country in miniature; hills of a conical form radiate from the central ridge, and chiefly from Mount Hillaby in a north-eastern direction towards the sea-shore; their sides are rugged and worn by the heavy rains and mountain torrents; their colour being generally of a dark reddish-brown, here and there tipped with whitish marl. This district has been represented as similar to the alpine country of Scotland, which name has been adopted for it."

The beauty of the country, the salubrity of the climate, and the natural richness and fertility of the soil, soon attracted a tide of emigrants to the island. In two years the population had increased to 1858 men, women and children, including Indians; and in 1650, when Barbados was at the highest point of its political importance, in consequence of the influx of royalist emigrants, it is said to have contained 50,000 whites, and to have been able to muster 10,000 foot and 1,000 horse in the field. This was probably an exaggeration,—but it indicates the general belief in the great resources of the island. It was, however, obliged to give way to the Lord Protector for a time, and await the turn of fortune. The general tenor of its history downwards is calm and unbroken, except by an occasional hurricane, a threat of insurrection on the part of the slaves, or the customary excite-

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ments of political discussion. These things have their special interest for the statesman and the historical student—though lacking that dramatic variety so dear to general readers. Those we will recommend to the pages of the work itself;—confining our own extracts to matter of more scientific and social value. The salubrity of the island is thus stated.—

"Barbados is justly considered one of the healthiest islands in the West Indian Archipelago. It is open to the sea breezes, and being cultivated throughout, innumerable miasmata are unknown. The peculiarity of its soil may add to its salubrity; and the natural drainage is so good, that it possesses no accumulations of stagnant waters, if we except artificial ponds; consequently that vegetable decomposition does not take place which in some of the less cultivated and richer islands produces poisonous miasmata, which render the residence of the European injurious to his health, and even fatal to his life. \* \* There prevails a uniformity of temperature, which may be considered as one of the chief sources of the salubrity of the island. It is not the absolute degree of temperature which determines the healthfulness of a country, but the presence or absence of sudden changes of heat and cold. Tubercular consumption is almost unknown; the distressing intermitting fevers which prevail along the coast-regions in Demerara, and in some of the adjacent islands, and which sometimes baffle the physician's skill, are not met with among the natives of Barbados; on the contrary, those who suffer from such causes are advised to resort to Barbados for the restoration of their health."

The following list of comparative mortalities in different countries confirms the foregoing view—and possesses also an independent interest of its own. A vast amount of incidental information of a similar character is scattered throughout the book.—

"The number of deaths amounted in England generally to 1 in 45; in the Isle of Wight to 1 in 58; in London to 1 in 39; in Bristol to 1 in 32; in Liverpool (parish) to 1 in 29; in the whole monarchy of Prussia in 1843 to 1 in 34·80, and in Pomerania, the healthiest province of that empire, to 1 in 44·10; in Naples the range of mortality was 1 in 34; in Wurtemberg 1 in 33; in Paris 1 in 32; in Nice 1 in 31; in Madrid 1 in 29; in Rome 1 in 25; in Amsterdam 1 in 24; in Vienna 1 in 22·5; and in Barbados it is no doubt under-rated if merely assumed at 1 in 66."

The total superficies of Barbados is 1663 English square miles. According to the census of 1844, there were 122,198 inhabitants; and upon these figures Sir Robert remarks:—

"Taking the whole area of the island and its population from the census of 1844, we find 734·8 individuals upon each square mile,—a population which surpasses that of China. Among the European sovereigns the dukedom of Lucca is the most populous; it contains 401 persons to the square mile; Belgium has 321; England and Wales 275; Scotland 88·5; Ireland 251·4; France 167·3; Prussia 145; Sweden 18·3. The population consisted in 1844 of 56,004 males and 66,194 females; consequently there was a surplus of 10,190 females, or the number of males stood in relation to that of females as 100 to 118·19; which is a disproportionate number. In Prussia the relation is as 100 to 104·93; in France as 100 to 104·3; in Austria as 100 to 103. Among the younger classes under eighteen years of age, this relation is only in Barbados as 100 to 101·57; but if the movement of the population rested in the West Indies upon the same principles as in Europe, there ought to be a great surplus of males above females at that age. The number of females only commences to preponderate in Europe at about the fortieth year."

The state of society in the island is in a most undesirable condition;—and the educational condition of the colony is low. Sir Robert writes a powerful section on the necessity of providing more and more *efficient* instruction, and points to the example of what is done by the government of the United States in proof of what ought to be done by our own.

The quantity of land in the island is estimated

at 106,470 acres,—of which about 100,000 are actually under cultivation. There are 1874 landed proprietors,—934 owning under 10 acres each. The chief staple articles of production raised in Barbados for exportation consist of—sugar, arrow-root, aloe and cotton; a small quantity of ginger is cultivated, which is mostly used for preserves. Cocoa-nuts and tamarinds occur in the table of exports; the quantities are however very small. Fustic and logwood, which formerly constituted considerable items in the annual exports, are now so scarce in the island that they hardly suffice to supply the internal demand. Little or no rum is exported; the price of that article has not afforded sufficient remuneration to induce its manufacture, and the planter has preferred to export molasses. The rum which is manufactured is consumed in the island. In former years tobacco and indigo were cultivated to some extent, but the cultivation of these two articles has been abandoned since the middle of the last century. The last manufactory of indigo was at Fortescue's. The number of vessels belonging to the Colony in 1844, was forty-one, with a burden of 1778 tons; of these, twelve were above fifty tons. In 1844, there were only thirty-seven vessels, comprising 1640 tons, and manned by 305 sailors."

Barbados is much exposed to those mysterious visitations of nature, hurricanes. Sir Robert enters into a long and learned disquisition as to their causes,—but acknowledges that at present the difficulties of the subject do not admit of solution. While confessing, however, that the originating causes are undiscernable, he conceives that there is good reason to think these visitations analogous to whirlwinds, and quotes the opinions of the natives—who have a susceptibility of their approach almost amounting to intuition—in support of his hypothesis. On the 12th and 13th of August 1830 Sir Robert witnessed one of these terrible convulsions. The extraordinary quantity of electricity which has long been noted as the concomitant of a hurricane attracted his attention; but he seems unable to satisfy himself whether this singular phenomenon is to be considered as a cause, or merely as a consequence, of the elemental war. What he saw he thus describes.—

"I was then in the island of St. John's, and resided at Emaus, one of the Moravian stations on that island, when the gale commenced with great fury; it turned to the south-west, and a well-barred door of the house, which was strongly built, was forced in by the blast. This gave me the opportunity of rushing on to the terrace, which faced Cruz Bay and the ocean. The scene which presented itself to my eyes was awfully sublime. Black masses,—whether they were clouds, or of a more solid nature, I could form no idea,—rested on the bay; the sea, lashed into foam, seemed to strike against it; and flashes of vivid fire descended as it were from Heaven, and were instantly engulfed in the sea. The next moment they appeared from beneath the white foam, and apparently ascended towards the sky, met by other masses hovering above. The howling of the storm, and a peculiar noise as if it were the rumbling of thousands of chariots, struck me with surprise and awe. The blast carried with it numerous small pebbles which struck with some force against my face. It is strange that during these moments Schiller's description of Charybdis flashed across my mind, and appeared realized before me. My kind friend the missionary forced me into the room: I am sure the time which elapsed from the moment the door was blown in, until the time when it was fixed again, was not ten minutes; nevertheless, the quantity of water which was blown into the room had perfectly covered the floor. It must have been mostly sea-water, as the floor was covered with the efflorescence of salt next morning. The height to which the foam of the sea is carried during a hurricane is astonishing; we must, however, remember that the rotatory motion of the blast would contribute in some measure towards this. It cannot be supposed that the gyrations act only on the surface of the water; they ascend, following their rotatory motion, and no doubt carry by gyration the sea-water in

their course. During the severe gale which touched Tortola in 1831, I was residing with the late President Donovan at St. Bernard's, a hill the summit of which is about 1000 feet above the sea; the dwelling-house, however, is at an elevation only of 920 feet. The day after the gale, the leaves of the trees and plants in the garden which had remained became black, from the contact with the sea-water spray; indeed the trees appeared.—

As when heaven's fire  
Has scathed the forest oaks, or mountain pines,  
With singed top their stately growth, though bare,  
Stands on the blasted heath;

and the rain-water in the cistern and vats, which was to be used for domestic purposes, was rendered brackish. During my exploring expedition in Guiana, I observed in the valley of the river Wema-mu, the ravages of a whirlwind, which for the distance of several miles had perfectly cleared a belt of 500 yards wide of all trees, and thrown them down with their heads towards all quarters of the compass; a rather steep hill and about 500 feet in height had opposed its course, but the belt continued in the same direction up the hill as in the valley. The course was from north-west to south-east, and the angle which that line formed with the hill-side was about 27°. It only continued for a short distance downwards on the opposite side, and from thence I could not trace it any further."

The general disquisitions introduced into this work have an interest beyond the boundaries of Barbados. The book belongs to a rare order of literary productions. Like Dr. Whittaker's 'History of Manchester' and similar works, it has an apparently limited arena,—but one into which the ingenuity of its author contrives to introduce no small amount of the general science and learning of his time.

#### The Almanacs for 1848.

In addition to the works of this class already enumerated, we have now before us *Howlett's Victoria Golden Almanack*,—so called because it is printed in gold letters. It is curious to see how odd our ink appears on the paper after looking at it for a moment or two. It is of the smallest waistcoat pocket size, and has the references to the church lessons for Sundays. Some copies are bound in painted and varnished wood, and make an elegant appearance. They have none of the clumsiness which suggests itself when old wood binding is thought of. A companion in elegance, on a much larger scale, is *Dowling & Co.'s Pictorial Almanack*—a sheet with a rich pictorial border, exhibiting designs that illustrate the occupations of the different seasons, from plum pudding to partridge-shooting. *The Parliament Almanack* has round its margin the names of all the members of both houses of Parliament. Then comes *The Illuminated Golden Gift Almanack*—and our ink changes colour again. Golden calendar and golden designs,—and a blank page at each month with a golden border to write "engagements" in,—and a golden weather table "constructed upon philosophical principles of the attraction of the sun and moon"! *Hodson's New Law Almanack* is just the sheet to hang up in the attorney's office.

*The Life Assurance Almanack* made us smile. Of course, we expected to see the advantages of life assurance gravely enforced—and were not disappointed. Words in season to that effect are set forth on the left hand page of each month:—but on the right, with the calendar, we met with what seems to us a curious contradiction. This contains lists of things in season; and we opened upon "lobsters, mackerel, mullet, muscles, oysters, perch, pike, prawns," &c. Will the directors of the assurance offices encourage their young lives to take such things as these? It must be some *annuity* office which has thus covertly attempted to lessen its own liabilities and augment those of the other branch of the business. A life assurance almanac ought to have lists of wholesome eatables. There

is enough in any one page of this to turn a thousand pounds of premiums into thirty thousand of claims, all at one sitting. *The Agricultural Almanac* has a name which speaks for itself;—so does that of the *Catholic Directory Almanack*. *The American Almanac*, printed at Boston, is a work of considerable pretension—containing a great deal of matter, apparently compiled with care. It would be very useful to those who wish for a work of reference to the United States.

*The People's Journal Almanac* gives eight pleasing woodcuts, and large ones too, for two-pence, with a dozen pages of almanac information into the bargain. Underwood's *Companion to the Barometer* is not exactly an almanac; but we should recommend our readers to hang it up beside the instrument, and see whether the directions which it gives do not put them up to to-morrow and the day after at least as well as the weather prophets.

We have no other place than this, our review and comparison of the several almanacs, in which we can so properly return to that of *Zadkiel*—in consequence of a letter which we have received from the astrologer himself! —*Zadkiel* complains that our correspondent who reviewed his nonsense a fortnight since [*ante*, p. 1244] calls him a cheat:—does the astrologer know what acts of parliament call him? From the terms of his letter, he may be only a dupe; but be he one or the other, he is mischievous. He asks if we have ever compared nativities with facts?—we answer that we have. He invites us to serious controversy on the truth or falsehood of astrology:—we tell him the time is long gone by. We endeavour to put the ignorant on their guard—but will not condescend seriously to refute the notion that the world is governed by the power of the stars, be it inclining or compelling power. In like manner, if any whom our paper is likely to reach were known to be in the habit of nailing horseshoes on their doors to keep off witches, we should endeavour to shame them out of their absurdity—but we would never seriously dispute with the believers in the existence of witchcraft. The prophet has sent us his almanac for this current year;—in which, he says, he has predicted the present influenza.—“There are now five planets in retrograde motion, and we may look for lamentable sickness in many lands.” Very wonderful that there should be sickness in November! He may prophesy with safety after the same fashion for any year—though it is the accident of this year that the sickness is worse than usual. Again—“On the 23rd,” says the prophet, “Mars will be very near the earth, and it is then we hear of bloody deeds, ruthless murders, and savage slaughters. Alas! for Ireland and Poland!” Many people had reasonable fears for Ireland, after the disorganization produced by the scarcity, on better grounds than the approach of Mars. It is not worth our while to go through the mass of unfulfilled prophecies,—the military violence in England, &c.

The prophet alludes to our having remarked on the large sale of astrological books among the ignorant; and this he appeals to as proof of the truth of the science. But magic sells quite as well as astrology—if not better. We shall continue to expose this lamentable absurdity—so long at least as the Stationers' Company continue to patronize and make money by it. We ask this last-named body—who are better worth powder and shot than Zadkiel or Raphael—what they think about their colleagues? Are they really of one mind with Zadkiel? Either they should discontinue their astrology, or come forward and avow their belief in it. One or the other course they

must choose in days like these, if once light be let in on the abuse which they patronize;—and we do only our duty in helping to compel them to the option.

## CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

*Flowers and their Kindred Thoughts.* Poetry by M.  
A. Bacon. Designs by Owen Jones.

It is a twenty-times-told tale to admire the wonders—*—may, the witchcraft*—wrought by modern ingenuity. But twenty-times-told tales—like old jokes, old friends, and old greetings—pass muster at Christmas time, that without being rated as prosy. We may say, then, that had Mr. Owen Jones existed in the dairies, when the monk spent a lifetime in the illumination of a breviary, he too might have happily furnished a story of trial and torture for Meinholds to write and Gordons to translate. Mr. Wheatstone's talking wires, Mr. Babbage's thinking machine, Mr. Taylor's sculpturing lathes, are scarcely more worthy of the persecution of ignorance than is the press in Argyle-street which has given its completest production to the world in the sumptuous and delicate book now before us. Some of the illustrations, indeed, are coloured with a union of lightness and depth such as Bartholomew's self could hardly exceed;—let us instance the Carnation and the Woodbine. In other of the specimens, a searching and fastidious eye will perceive a certain timidity of drawing, which reduces them below high Art;—but the felicity of transfer is wonderful. The binding in embossed leather is rich; and the whole volume is a most choice book for Lady's chamber. The exceeding beauty of the illustrations is the excuse for our giving them precedence over the golden-lettered rhymes by which they are accompanied. Here is one which puts up the old petition “Forget me Not” pleasantly.

Where did they grow? At the sad willow's foot  
Who drops her pallid leaves like silent tears,  
Into the stream that nourishes her root;  
Nor its sweet music of contentment hears.  
But these look up—and take the tint of Heaven;  
Where'er they rise they consecrate the spot,  
Like some blessed moment even in sorrow giv'n  
To whisper through a life "Forget me not."

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## OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

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*The Maiden. A Story for My Young Country-women.—The Wife, a Story, &c.—The Mother.* By T. S. Arthur.—‘*My Young Countrywomen*’ does not mean the young countrywomen of Mr. Hodson who republishes, or of the *Athenaeum* that reviews, these three American tales:—and therefore the moral to be derived from them, so far as we are concerned, halts to a certain degree—in proportion as the lives of Transatlantic ladies differ from the lives of Englishwomen. The latter do not congregate in boarding-houses to get rid of house-keeping. They are not extravagantly fond of sitting under lectures or orations: with many other minor differences, — not gathered, let us add, from the *observations* of tourists (by Brother Jonathan too universally rated as *accusations*), but from the moral tales produced in the Land of Promise itself, in which we find turns of expression, naturally arising out of indigenous customs, at once quaint, peculiar, and characteristic. Hence, while we are entertained with such books as studies of *costume*, —viewed in the light of sermons, parts of them are as little applicable to ourselves as St. Anthony’s discourse to the fishes would be, preached to the sharks, thornbacks, or *remoras* of London. (Mr. (or Mrs.?) Arthur is far drier and less skilful as a writer than

Arthur is in fact less skilful as a writer than Miss Sedgwick, Miss Leslie, and others who have gone before. In brief, this trilogy seems to us hardly worth the labour of reprinting.

*Henry Domville; or, a Younger Son.* By Himself. 2 vols.—Seeing that the world has not forgotten a former novel with a similar title—*we mean, of course, Mr. Trellawney's*; so rude, so startling, yet so glowing with the riches of genius,—another “Younger Son” living in our half century who ventures to narrate his adventures ought to possess credentials of no common order. Mr. Domville's are *Corinthian* nerves; since, less boldly endowed, he must have shrunk from poaching on the premises of the redoubtable Greek chief-*tain*, especially under the accoutrements in which he goes forth. His book is a very small chronicle of the great events in England and France which closed

the last century—containing little life, less probability, and no character. The novel-trade shows some signs of righting itself; but the appearance of many "Younger Sons" would go far to throw it into a final discredit such as no remedy or revival could reach.

*Adventures of a Guardsman.* By Charles Cozens. —The reader will be glad to learn that on the present occasion he is spared any more Peninsular adventures—any new lights touching the Battle of Waterloo. This autobiographical sketch is personal rather than military. It will probably be found to possess more interest for the writer's connexions and acquaintances than for the general public. Mr. Cozens details the events of a seven years' residence in New South Wales; whether he was sent under sentence for having threatened a superior officer; bringing forward such details in exculpation as acquit him of aught save the use of angry language when under the influence of liquor.—The statement he considers due to his family and friends. Now, seeing that during his residence in the New World he rose to official situations of trust and responsibility,—and that with his arrival in England a new career is naturally open to him,—we think that to remind the public of matters of which they might otherwise have remained in ignorance is a work of supererogation.

*Tables showing the Weight of British Gold and Silver Coin.* By J. H. Watherston.—If any of our readers were asked what a *pyx* is, most of them would reply that all they know is that poor Bardolph was hanged at last for "*pyx* of little price." But there are *pyxes* of great value; and such are the boxes so called, full of coin, which the Mint yearly submits to a *jury of the pyx*—twelve goldsmiths duly summoned to examine the weight and fineness of the current coin. Mr. Watherston seems to have been led by the accident of finding himself on a *pyx* jury to construct these tables,—which clearly must be useful to future jurors. The accuracy of the Mint is remarkable. Gold coin was presented to the *pyx*-men in last March which should have weighed 204 lb. 3 oz. 9 dwt. 20 grains: it weighed just *four grains more*,—making the *average* departure of a sovereign from the legal standard less than the two-thousandth part of a grain. Silver coin, which should have weighed 128 lb. 5 oz. 14 dwt. weighed only one pennyweight less. The Government allow what they call remedies (a limit of error) of 12 grains to the pound for gold, and a pennyweight for silver. Mr. Watherston contends that such heavy doses of remedy are not necessary for any existing disorder,—and recommends that they should be reduced. This would, he says, benefit the exchanges a little—seeing that foreigners always suppose the coin to be as bad as it is allowed to be. In the gold, this lightness of weight presumed by law as of possible existence is more than 2 in 1000, or than 4s. in 100l.—certainly more than need be sacrificed to a reputed liability to error which has no existence. It is a great deal more than a stock-broker's commission. We agree with Mr. Watherston,—and, as we should phrase it, allow that the remedy is worse than the disease.

*A Manual, chiefly of Definitions, Introductory to the Plane Astronomy of the Globes.* By Robert Snow, Esq.—This work is just what it pretends to be; it is copious in definitions. It is from the pen of a practical astronomer, who uses his own instruments; and there is generally clearness about the elementary definitions of those who have had the terms in their thoughts as objects of actual use. Writers on this subject are of two kinds,—those who know the heavens only as prototypes of the globe, and those who only know the globe as an imitation of the heavens. Those who have observed the heavens, as Mr. Snow has done, are always of the latter and better class.

*Suggestions for a Domestic Currency.*—The author's definition of a pound sterling is, "a certain fractional standard or measure which productive territory and population bear to one another." This is not very clear English; two things never bear a measure to one another as a standard. We quote this sentence to show that if we misunderstand our author it may not be our fault. As far as we can make him out, he would have Government, looking at the quantity of produce and of people, decide how many pound notes are wanted. These are to be handed out to the people, and bid them exchange them against commodities,—not forgetting to take value for them.

in the first instance. But when they are to return  
sins for them, we cannot find. This pound note is,  
therefore, nothing but a declaration of a ratio which  
two things bear to one another. For ourselves, we  
had rather have produce. Without pretending to  
say that we know gold, or silver, or any other thing,  
to be the best representative of value, we feel sure  
that paper should represent something—something  
which must be paid on demand.

*Remarks on Geography as a Branch of Popular Education.* By W. Hughes.—An excellent method of teaching geography is here laid down. The author recommends the frequent practice of mapping, and an incessant reference to maps. He advises the teacher to describe the physical peculiarities of each country before he points out its artificial boundaries—to show how the population is distributed—to give an account of the industrial occupations of the inhabitants, together with the nature and extent of the commerce carried on—to explain the dependence of all these things upon the climate, soil, situation, &c.—and to conclude with a descriptive survey of the various towns and other prominent localities. There are many sensible remarks well worthy the attention of every teacher of geography.

*How to Read and Translate French.* By Mariot de Beauvoisin.—The greater part of this showy volume consists of a literal translation of 'The Exiles of Siberia,' and the only peculiarity appears to be that, instead of being interlinear, the French and English are printed side by side in blue and red type.

*Rowbotham's Guide to French Conversation enlarged.* By Marin De la Voie.—*Modern French Pronouncing Book.* By Louis Sandier.—*How to Speak French.* By Achille Albitès.—These books are spoilt by the vain attempt to express the true French pronunciation by means of uncouth combinations of letters having English sounds. The last is incomparably superior to the two former in many respects;—especially in this, that the conversational exercises convey much valuable information about the history, literature, customs, and institutions of France.

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#### THE DYING YEAR.

Were not the mirror dimmed with passion's breath,  
Or stirred with fears, we might ourselves behold  
Within Time's glass:—which now the year, grown old,  
To younger, steadier hands abandoneth.  
He totters slowly on, quite nigh to death,  
Laden with joys and agonies untold:  
He glideth gently on to that dim fold  
The Past,—where memory awakeneth !

God's angel—heretofore man's servant; leaving  
Us and our life,—with man no longer grieving,  
Delighting—caring tho' we smile or sigh,—  
Shrunk to a witness, he must testify  
Where his ghostly ancestors are weaving  
The future from the past eternity !

R. A.

in the operative department of his profession. His fame was no longer confined to his *alma mater*; but the skill with which he performed some of the most formidable operations in surgery, and their successful results, gave him a European reputation. Accordingly, when the new hospital attached to the medical school of University College was opened—unfeathered by medical cliqueism and bound to no interests save those of the charity and the Medical School,—the Senate of that institution invited Mr. Liston to become one of its surgeons. This invitation he accepted—and commenced his career in London in 1833. Although he was appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery at University College, the only complete course of lectures on surgery which he delivered in London was in connexion with the School of Medicine adjoining St. George's Hospital. On the death of Sir Anthony Carlisle in 1840, he was appointed a member of the Council of the College of Surgeons,—and one of the Board of Examiners in March 1846. He had thus reached almost the highest honours which his profession had to bestow when seized with the illness that terminated his life.

At the beginning of the year he had complained of difficulty of swallowing; but this excited little uneasiness till last July—when he was suddenly seized with hemorrhage from the throat, by which he lost above thirty ounces of blood. The source of this hemorrhage was never ascertained; and by a little care for a few weeks he recovered his health sufficiently to resume his practice. On the 1st of December he had an attack of difficulty of breathing; which continued with little or no relief till the 7th—when he died. On opening his body, it was found that he had died from the effects of an aneurism of the arch of the aorta, which was seated in such a position as to render it difficult of detection during life.

In person Mr. Liston was tall, strong, and well made—with a powerful muscular development which contributed not a little to his success as an operator. His hand and arm might have formed models for a Hercules; and the power which they possessed, governed by a well-disciplined will, formed a not unimportant element of the dexterity which he exhibited in the performance of surgical operations. These powerful limbs might be compared to the trunk of an elephant, which is equally competent to the pulling down of a tree and the picking up of a pin:—so Liston's hands availed him for those operations in which manual power alone enabled him to use his instruments with success as well as those in which the most delicate manipulation was required. His mind was more distinguished by perceptive than by reflexive power. He arrived at his conclusions with astonishing rapidity—and seemed to comprehend at a glance the requirements of any particular case. This faculty of reaching correct conclusions without the mind's being cognizant of the intervening processes is undoubtedly an attribute of genius;—and it was one which in no small degree contributed to Mr. Liston's success as a surgeon, and gave him the boldness and decision that he evinced when performing the most appalling operations in surgery. To these physical and mental powers he added great industry. He was a constant student of anatomy—spending much of his little leisure time in the practice of dissection.

Great, however, as was Mr. Liston's success as an operative surgeon, his influence on his profession will, we believe, be more felt through the general principles on which he acted in the treatment of surgical diseases. He early saw the folly of over-treating disease,—and learned to trust to those curative powers that are natural to all living structures. Hence, he adopted and inculcated a simplicity of treatment in surgical diseases which even at the present day contrasts strongly with the practice of those who yet cling to the poulticing, strapping, bandaging, and anointing that characterized the surgery of a past age.

Mr. Liston did not write much. When in Edinburgh, he published a work entitled 'Elements of Surgery,'—of which a second edition appeared subsequently in London. This work proved that he was abler as a practical surgeon than as a writer. Those portions are most instructive in which the author details his own experience in operating and in the treatment of wounds. This led to his publication of a work 'On Practical Surgery' in 1837; which being a record of his own peculiar expe-

rience obtained a rapid sale, considering its kind,—it having reached a fourth edition in 1846. It embodies all that is possible in such a work of his plans and modes of procedure,—more especially in operations; and is undoubtedly one of the most important contributions to the literature of practical surgery in the English language. Mr. Liston published some other smaller works and papers in the 'Transactions' of medical societies; and the medical journals contain copious reports of his clinical lectures delivered at University College, and of the cases treated under his care. Although thoroughly practical in the general tendency of his mind, he was yet alive to the influence of scientific researches on his profession; and made some interesting observations on the microscopic characters of certain forms of inflammatory disease, which were published in the 'Medico-Chirurgical Transactions.' He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1840.

In private Mr. Liston was much respected; for though his manners were somewhat rough, and might even to some appear repulsive, he had a generous heart and was capable of the warmest attachments. The esteem in which he was held was attested by the numbers who followed his remains to the grave. He was buried at the Highgate Cemetery; at the bottom of the hill near which the hearse was met by upwards of four hundred of his pupils and friends. These attended the body to the church, and from thence to the grave,—where nearly three thousand persons were collected to pay their last testimony of respect to one to whom when living they had been in most instances indebted for relief from personal suffering.

Mr. Liston has left a widow and six children—four daughters and two sons.

#### THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

THE communications of our correspondent, Dr. King, respecting these Expeditions have, we understand, occasioned considerable uneasiness to the relatives of Sir John Franklin and of his officers. We have, therefore, to repeat, and beg it may be distinctly borne in mind, that we are in no way pledged to the statements or opinions of our correspondent. We have been anxious that no measure of precaution should be neglected which might provide against the less favourable contingencies of the case; but while Sir James Ross and other eminent Arctic voyagers declare it to be their firm opinion that the Expedition under Sir John Franklin has actually *made the passage*, and will be heard of as being successful at the latter end of January or the beginning of February next, it is certainly premature to talk of the Expedition as lost. Our object in publishing the letters of Dr. King has been to give that gentleman an opportunity of advancing his claims in a quarter where he has hitherto met with no attention:—and with that view our columns are opened to him again this week.

To the Right Hon. Earl Grey.

17, Savile-row, Dec. 16.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hawes's letter of the 8th instant. Mr. Hawes states, "I am desired by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, in which you solicit employment in connexion with the Expedition which you state is about to be sent out in search of Sir John Franklin; and I am to acquaint you in answer that it does not fall within his Lordship's province as Secretary of State for the Colonies to confer appointments of this nature, but that you should address any application you may desire to make upon the subject to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty."

I can scarcely express to your Lordship the deep sorrow which I felt at receiving such an answer—especially at the eleventh hour; for your Lordship has been in possession of my views of the position of Sir John Franklin's Arctic Expedition and the means of affording it relief since last June; and in February the service that I have proposed, if it be adopted, must be in progress.

Your Lordship is labouring altogether under a misconception of the views expressed in that letter. I am not "soliciting employment in connexion with the Expedition which is about to be sent out in search of Sir John Franklin." I am endeavouring to induce your Lordship to take measures which I believe to be necessary for saving the lives of 126 of our fellow-creatures. So far from soliciting employ-

ment—so far from desiring to continue a Polar traveller,—I have long since ceased to be a candidate for such an office, my services in search of Sir John Ross not having been even acknowledged by the Colonial or Admiralty Board; and it is only for the sake of humanity that I am induced to come forward again in such a character. It would not be in your Lordship's power to make good the loss which I should sustain in going in search of Sir John Franklin—a loss which cannot be measured by a money standard; and as for employment, I should have to resign five appointments of honour and emolument which I hold, together with my professional practice.

It is not for me to question your Lordship's province as Secretary of State for the Colonies; but it is for me to consider whether I "should address any application I may desire to make upon the subject" to the Admiralty Board. The manner in which that Board met my offer to administer medical relief to the suffering crew of the steamer *Éclair*, and the suppression of my name in the return made to the House of Commons on the motion of Admiral Dundas, and ordered to be printed 13th March 1846, of officers and men who volunteered to serve on that occasion, and the hostile feeling which has prevailed at the Admiralty against my views on Arctic discoveries—all of which have now been proved to be correct,—are sufficient reasons for my not again offering my services to that Board. Some changes must have taken place if it does not fall within your Lordship's province to originate expeditions of the nature which I have suggested; for Earl Bathurst despatched the overland journeys in command of Sir John Franklin, and Viscount Goderich the Expedition in search of Sir John Ross,—so that all the Polar land journeys have emanated from the Colonial Board.

For the sake of our suffering fellow-countrymen, whose miseries and hardships I can perhaps above most men conceive and appreciate, I deeply regret your Lordship's determination. I have, &c.

RICHARD KING.

The great interest which attaches to the subject has induced us also to make room for the following communication containing the views of another correspondent.—

December 14.

The Government, now seriously alive to the critical and perilous situation of Sir John Franklin and his associates, has, it appears, at length determined on fitting out three separate Expeditions in search of them; one to proceed immediately to Behring's Straits,—another, under Sir James Ross, next spring to Baffin's Bay,—and a third overland, under Sir John Richardson, to co-operate as far as possible with both. Connected by birth with the territory through which this last Expedition is to proceed, and from which, I may add, I have but recently arrived—intimately acquainted with its capabilities and resources, as well as with every native tribe inhabiting it—I am induced, by a deep interest in the subject to offer a few observations on the means which appear to me best calculated to ensure the safety, efficiency, and success of this humane and deeply interesting mission.

The objects for a land Expedition to consider are these three:—

1. The probable position of Sir John Franklin's party.
2. The means of reaching them.
3. The means of bringing them in safety to England.

In the case of a land party the last is obviously not the least important point for consideration.

1. *Probable position of the party.* In the absence of all authoritative information as to the exact tenor of Sir John Franklin's instructions (which it is to be regretted have not been made public) this is not easy to determine. Dr. King's conjecture that they are to be found somewhere on the west side of North Somerset is probably not far from the truth.

If so, they are nearly in the longitude of the mouth of the Great Fish River—let us say in round numbers  $100^{\circ}$  W. Banks Land, the farthest point reached by Capt. Parry, nearly corresponds with the longitude of the Coppermine River,—which we may roughly estimate at about  $115^{\circ}$  W. Taking these as extreme points, there would remain 15 degrees, which in that latitude would give about 300 miles,

for conjecture. Within these limits it may be safely assumed the lost Expedition will be found; and here, therefore, I conceive the chief efforts of a land party ought to be concentrated.

We come, then, to consider—2. *The best means of reaching it.* For this purpose three routes have been proposed—by the Mackenzie, the Coppermine, and Great Fish Rivers respectively. The first of these is open to many grave objections. It is, in the first place, *in the wrong direction*, and, therefore, entails an unnecessary waste of time, labour, and expense. The sea between the mouth of Mackenzie River and Port Barrow is almost entirely free from ice. Franklin himself, as well as Deas and Simpson, testify to this. They saw a clear offing all the way. "Often," says Capt. Franklin, in his second journey, while pursuing his painful route along the shore, "often did every one express a wish that we had some decked vessel in which the provisions could be secured from the injury of salt water and the crew sheltered when they required rest, *that we might quit this shallow coast and steer at once towards Icy Cape (Port Barrow).*" It is scarcely within the limits of probability, therefore, that the party—supposing they had reached the longitude of Mackenzie River—would be arrested between it and Port Barrow. If by any chance or mischance they have been driven ashore on "this shallow coast" (in which case alone could a boat party have any prospect of meeting with them), they could find their own way to Mackenzie River without any assistance,—which would but encumber them.

Were it necessary to explore this coast at all, it could evidently be much more effectively done from *Port Barrow to Mackenzie River* in one of the ship's boats now about to sail for Behring's Straits, properly fitted up for the purpose and manned by five or six hands; who on their arrival at Mackenzie's River could push on to Port Macpherson,—the best provisioned trading port in the north, situated near the mouth of Peel's River, a tributary of the Mackenzie, explored and surveyed by myself a few years ago (*vide Journal of the Geographical Society, 1846*). There they could quarter themselves for the winter,—and next year reach England by any of the ordinary conveyances of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The neighbourhood of Mackenzie River has now also, unfortunately become a most dangerous wintering station for any large body of men. It is true that Sir John Franklin wintered here in 1825 and 1826, and Dr. Richardson, who was of his party, may very naturally calculate upon being able to do so with equal safety again. But *twenty years* will be found to have worked a woeful change in the condition of this country and its inhabitants. Famine and its uniform attendant cannibalism have fearfully depopulated a district never at any time over rich in natural resources. Only three years ago one half of the Hare tribe perished around Fort Good Hope, after having killed and eaten two of the Hudson's Bay Company's people who imprudently ventured beyond the gates. Having had little occasion to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to this subject, I need only add that Lord Grey has at this moment in his possession the most indubitable evidence of the truth of these statements.

It remains to compare the routes by the Coppermine and Great Fish Rivers;—either of which, as will be seen by a reference to the map, will conduct the exploring party more or less directly to the scene of operations. Which of these ought to be selected will depend mainly on the arrangements that have been already made in the country by the Hudson's Bay Company. I think, for my own part, *they might both be employed simultaneously and with great advantage.* Simply as a means of reaching Capt. Franklin, assuming him to be in the neighbourhood of North Somerset, the route by the Great Fish River, recommended by Dr. King, is undoubtedly the best yet proposed.

*To reach Capt. Franklin does not appear to me, however, to be the only point to be considered in the plan of an overland Expedition.* For let us suppose the lost party found, the question arises—*how are they to be brought to England?* What is to be done with them when they are found? It will not be enough to inform them that deposits of provisions have been left for their use at various points along Baffin's Bay,

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Lancaster Sound, or elsewhere. It is not by any means clear that they will be, at the time, in a condition to reach any of these places. Neither is it altogether certain, on the other hand, that Sir James Ross will be able to penetrate so far as he expects, or to reach the various points where stores may have been intended to be deposited. Sir George Back in his ill-starred voyage in the *Terror* could not penetrate beyond Southampton Island; and Repulse Bay has, we know, more than once vindicated its name. Sir John Ross twice found Barrow's Straits blocked up with ice.

To provide against such casualties as these—some of them inevitable, many of them probable, and all of them possible—it is of the utmost importance that an overland Expedition should, as far as possible, be made complete and independent in itself,—and have at its command the means not only of reaching, but of affording a safe asylum to, those of whom it is in search. To bring 126 men up the Coppermine or Great Fish River *in safety*, (considering the difficult navigation of these streams, navigable only for boats of a peculiar construction and size), next to impossible. Could it be accomplished, their wintering ground would be their grave. No human means, no exertions of the Hudson's Bay Company or of Indians, could save them from starvation during the winter. It cannot be too widely known that there is not, with one or two exceptions, a single trading post north of the Athabasca Lake which is not more or less dependent for the means of exporting its annual returns of furs on provisions collected for this purpose on the banks of the Saskatchewan, more than a thousand miles distant. Without this annual supply—which has in some cases to be transported more than double that distance—the transport trade of the northern districts could not be carried on. In this territory it is scarcely necessary to say the overland party *must* winter—as it can. Twenty men sent out last spring by the Hudson's Bay Company's ships to York Factory are already on their way to Mackenzie's River; where they are to be employed next summer in transporting stores for the use of the lost Expedition to various points along the Arctic Ocean. The four boats sent out with them are constructed to carry not more than 70 bags of pemmican of 90lb. each; giving a total freight of 25,000lb. for the four. Now, before these stores can reach the Arctic Ocean from York Factory they must be transported over a distance of nearly 3,000 miles, obstructed by 78 portages—one of them 13, and several between 2 and 3, miles in length,—where both boat and cargo must be carried over by the crew. If the route by the Great Fish River be followed, several other monstrous portages must be surmounted. Sir John Richardson purposed to join them in the spring,—and his officers and boat's crew will increase the number to *thirty*. The whole party must be provisioned for two years at least; which, at the ordinary allowance of 3lb. of pemmican a man per day, would require 65,700lb. To the original stock of 25,000lb. intended for the use of Capt. Franklin's party! let us suppose the Hudson's Bay Company, by the aid of the Indians, could contribute as much more, (which would be seven times as much as with every possible exertion they could supply to Capt. Back in 1833):—there would remain a deficiency of 15,300lb. for the actual consumption of the party sent to Sir JOHN FRANKLIN'S RELIEF! What relief 126 famishing men can look for from such a source I leave the candid reader to judge.

In further corroboration of these views, if such were needed, I might refer to the experience of the overland Expedition of 1833-6 in search of Sir John Ross. In that case, a party numbering not more than ten individuals, stationed on the borders of the largest and most productive lake in this part of the world, and aided by all the resources of the Hudson's Bay Company, barely contrived to subsist on half rations through the winter; while of the unfortunate arrivals attracted round Fort Reliance by the presence of the whites it is recorded that "at one time from 40 to 50 human beings lay dead around the place—and so scattered that it was impossible to walk in any direction within twenty miles without stumbling over a frozen body."—*'King's Narrative.'*

Thus, every train of reasoning brings us to the same point,—namely, the necessity of rendering an overland Expedition complete in itself and inde-

pendent as far as possible of all extraneous assistance. For this purpose I submit for consideration the following plan;—which I have long matured, but of which (having already encroached so largely on your space) I can here give but a very imperfect outline.

At the north-western extremity of Hudson's Bay, near the southern opening of Sir Thomas Roe's Welcome, is situated Chesterfield Inlet,—a deep and narrow arm of the sea, reaching not far from 300 miles into the land, and receiving the waters of two considerable rivers, the Doobauta Whoie and the Cathawah Chaga, so named by Hearne. The former of these is well known to be one of the largest and most navigable streams in this part of the country. It rises a considerable distance into the interior, flows through a well-wooded country and, according to the accounts of the natives who have descended it, is interrupted but by one inconsiderable portage throughout its whole course. A short distance from the sea is Doobauta Lake,—apparently an expansion of this stream; which from its abounding in white fish (*Coregonus albus*) is the favourite resort of the Esquimaux attached to Fort Churchill. It seems also to be a trading rendezvous between them and those of the tribe inhabiting the shores and islands of the Arctic Ocean about the estuary of the Great Fish River. At the western extremity of Chesterfield Inlet is not more than 90 miles from the nearest point of the Great Fish River (*'Back's Journal'*, p. 360), the Doobauta Whoie, flowing as it does in a general easterly course, must approach within a very short distance of this stream,—if indeed, it does not actually communicate with it; which is exceedingly probable.

On the banks of the Doobauta Whoie, then, so admirably adapted in every respect for the wintering ground of an overland Expedition, and at a point as near as possible to the Great Fish River, establish a general provision dépôt. Despatch a vessel with stores, as early next spring as the state of navigation will permit, to Chesterfield Inlet; taking care to provide her with a sufficient number of boats to convey these stores to the spot selected for the dépôt.

These are the chief points. Into the details of the plan I have left myself but little space to enter, but I may here particularize as some of the advantages it holds out, that,—

1st. It will not interfere with any arrangements that may already be in progress in other parts of the country,—but rather afford them aid and co-operation; for while Sir John Richardson with his fleet of boats is scouring the Polar Sea in every direction, there would be preparing for him, and for those of whom he is in search a safe asylum not more than five or six days' journey by the Great Fish River from the Arctic Ocean,—from which, if unsuccessful the first season, he might resume his search with greater advantages the next.

2nd. The proximity of the proposed dépôt to the Arctic Ocean would afford obvious facilities for the exploration of the lands and islands around Boothia Felix and North Somerset,—where the lost party is most likely to be found or heard of; or for depositing stores, &c., for its use and guidance. If the ship arrived in any reasonable time at Chesterfield inlet, much might be accomplished in this way the same season.

3rd. Much advantage might arise from the good understanding which would be established with the Esquimaux; who, being in this neighbourhood in some degree civilized by intercourse with the traders at Fort Churchill, would by prospect of reward being held out to them be induced to engage actively in the general search—a service in which it is needless to say they would prove able and valuable auxiliaries.

4th. The territory in which the proposed dépôt would be situated is the favourite haunt of the reindeer,—driven into this corner of the continent by the encroachments of the hunters and trappers in other parts of the country. As evidence of its capability of supporting a considerable population, Hearne mentions a party of 600 Indians whom he found encamped together near the Doobauta Whoie.

5th. The proposed plan would render the overland Expedition independent of the Hudson's Bay Company.

These advantages I refrain from enlarging upon. Few, I feel confident, in any degree conversant with

the dangers and difficulties of Arctic travelling will be disposed to underrate them. I am, &c.,

A. K. ISBISTER.

77, Jubilee Street, Mile End Road.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE daily papers record the death of Dr. Wigan, late of Brighton,—who died at his residence in London on the 7th of December last. He was best known as the author of a work on 'The Duality of the Mind,'—which we noticed at the time of its publication [No. 954]; and although not agreeing with the author in all his conclusions, we conceded to him great praise for the industry and care with which he had collected a large number of highly interesting facts in the range of mental science. He had devoted much time to the study of insanity,—and was a decided advocate of the mild system of treatment. He was deservedly beloved and respected by a large private circle of friends. He seems to have fallen a victim to our want of sanitary arrangements;—for he attributed the illness of which he eventually died to having accidentally inhaled the noxious vapours escaping from one of the numerous gully-holes that disgrace the most magnificent street of our metropolis.

The mortality of the season has found its victims in all classes; and to the list of deaths that claim a record in our columns we must this week add the name of Mr. G. B. Whittaker, the eminent publisher, at the age of 54. Mr. Whittaker was the son of the Rev. G. Whittaker—for many years master of the Grammar School at Southampton and author of many well-known school books. The son has been the publisher of many works of celebrity—among which we may mention Cuvier's 'Animal Kingdom,' in 16 vols. 4to., which was produced at a very great cost,—and Payne Collier's edition of the works of Shakespeare. He was also one of the promoters of cheap literature in his 'Popular Library.'

The New York *Literary World* gives the particulars of a new and ingenious mode of presenting the copyright question, brought forward in, and attending the publication of, a recent number of *Blackwood's Magazine*. The incident is this:—an article intended for the European Magazine in question was first privately printed in New York; and a copyright for the same being then taken out in the U.S. District Clerk's office, one of the impressions of the article was duly forwarded to Blackwood, who adopted it into his work as an integral part of the same. The number of *Blackwood* being subsequently reprinted in America, as a matter of course Mr. John Jay, the owner of the American copyrighted article, stands in a position to "come down upon" the American re-publishers for an infringement of his legal rights and property.—It appears that not only *Blackwood's Magazine*, but the *Quarterly, Edinburgh, Westminster, and North British Reviews* are piratically reprinted in America; but this measure, if it should be repeated, says the *Evening Mirror*, will both effectually stop the reprinting of English magazines (to the gain of the home proprietors) and greatly benefit the American periodicals by removing a most unequal competition with the unpaid literary labours of English writers. The New York *Evening Post* says:—“The principle involved in the case may be regarded as settled. The ability of British publishers to control American reprints of reviews and magazines is no longer a question,—and a difficulty heretofore regarded as insuperable in the present state of the copyright question has been overcome. The effect of this movement, slight as it at first seems, upon American authorship promises to be very favourable; and will probably lead to new expedients for securing the copyright of English books, and eventually to a fundamental change in our present narrow and restrictive legislation in regard to literary property.”—It is stated that steps have already been taken for supplying the English *Quarterlies* with American articles; which will at once secure to the former a transatlantic copyright and afford an opportunity to American writers for the discussion of subjects that are tabooed in their own literary journals.

Messrs. Harper Brothers have, we see, contracted with the Edinburgh publishers for the simultaneous

production in America of the posthumous works of the late Dr. Chalmers.

We are glad to report, wherever we find, it the progress of the copyright cause. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it has been stated by Mr. Labouche in the House of Commons, have both passed colonial acts imposing a duty of 20 per cent. on the importation of pirated editions of English works published in the United States,—and providing that the proceeds of that tax shall be remitted for the benefit of the parties entitled to copyright at home. This is also an ingenious principle of re-adjustment, by which the piracy itself is rendered beneficial in the right direction—the parties pirated on being made sharers in a new field of profit.—Speaking of the new benefits at which authorship is gradually arriving, we are tempted to draw upon the Spanish chronicles for an example introducing a new and distinct principle of possible literary rewards—in the hope that the doctrine of contagion may be found active in this particular instance. We call the especial attention of the London publishers to the fact that one of their brethren at Madrid, who has realized an immense fortune, is said to be building a splendid mansion in that capital,—on which he intends to place the names of Spanish authors in letters of gold; and it is added that, not having any family, he intends at his death to leave his money to those authors whose works he has published!

There is some chance that the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge will ere long be at length arranged in its new home. The Syndicate have issued a report which states that the available funds are not sufficient to complete the building—but that the works now in hand can be finished, and the building made in a fit state for the reception and exhibition of the museum, for 437. The report recommends the payment of this sum.

The letters of Cromwell introduced to the public through the pages of *Fraser's Magazine*—to which we last week called attention—are naturally the object of much curiosity and much doubt. We shall have something to say to our readers on the subject ere long: but meantime, we may give the following paragraphs from a correspondent as examples of the suspicion which attaches to them and the scrutiny to which they are exposed in more than one quarter.—“Surely the world of novel readers may expect a second De Foe whenever the author of the ‘Cromwell Letters’ vouches for by Mr. Carlyle shall venture on the commission of a romance. A yet closer attention to colour and costume may, however, be advantageously superadded. ‘I stand no nonsense from any man’ ‘won’t wash’ as a saying of the Brewer’s Son:—and the escape of *Miss* Andrews from the nursery is an anachronism not to be overlooked.”

Mrs. Somerville, the authoress of the ‘Mechanism of the Heavens,’ is engaged, we hear, in writing a work on Physical Geography.

The *New York Herald* mentions a projected American expedition of a somewhat curious character—expressing its assurance of the fact, but its uncertainty as to the object. The pretext is scientific:—a party of naval officers being about to sail immediately, it was said, in a government ship to the Mediterranean for the purpose of making an exploration and survey of the Dead Sea. They will meet with other unfamiliar phenomena on their way, if they come at once—on which they may report to their government. Vesuvius, it seems, has been giving new signs of life since the 13th ult. Ten torrents of lava, more or less large, have been flowing from the craters in a southern direction, towards Oljotana, Bosco-Real, and Torre-Greco,—stopping only at a short distance from the wooded plains which surround those towns. A new crater of about five yards’ diameter has formed itself on the mountain; and throws up incessantly stones, cinders, and flakes of sulphurous fire.

The Academy of Sciences in Paris has chosen M. Largeau, from a list of three candidates, to succeed M. Benjamin Delessert as a free member of its body: and, in conjunction with the assembly of professors at the Museum of Natural History—to whom and the Academy the joint right of recommendation belongs—has nominated M. Dufresnoy to fill the chair of the mineralogical professorship left vacant

by the death of M. Alexandre Brongniart. The actual appointment rests with the Minister of Public Instruction.

In the *Times* of Friday occurs the following advertisement:—

St. Paul’s, Covent Garden.—Tombstones, Ledgers, &c.—Stones in Covent Garden Burial Ground bearing the following names and dates are either sunk or very much out of repair: and unless the parties having claim attend and repair them forthwith, the Churchwardens will be compelled to remove them:—

Croft. Schofield.  
Goodnorth and Humphries, Wood, 1793.  
1761.  
Day. Grosvenor Bedford, 1771.  
Robins. Reason, 1759—1775.  
Leigh. Coutts.  
Gillott or Elliott. Crick.  
Wallace. Greenwallers and Cork, 1757  
—1818.

James Worsdale.  
And others on which the letters are too much obliterated to be deciphered. Any further particulars may be obtained at my office, 13, Bedford Street, Covent Garden.

THOMAS MOSELEY, Vestry Clerk.

We had occasion formerly to refer to this improper system of removing monuments after what is called “due notice.” What is the due notice? An advertisement appears in the London papers to the effect that unless certain monuments are repaired “forthwith” they will be removed. Now, the parties interested in the preservation of the monuments may be in India or China,—or still further off in Australia. With every wish to preserve the monuments of their family, there is also something more than a possibility of their never seeing the advertisement in question. Let us suppose a case:—An officer in India has his attention attracted by an advertisement in a London paper (which he has seen accidentally) wherein it appears that unless the monument to a certain person whom he knows to be his own grandfather is repaired “forthwith” it will be immediately removed. He never knew before that it was sunk or defaced. The sculptor who made it was paid to build it of good materials—and paid additionally for placing it on a secure foundation. What is to be done? He has no relations in England; and writes to an agent here, instructing him to put it in repair at any cost. The agent calls on the Vestry Clerk, asks to see the monument,—and is told, “You are too late, Sir. The period has expired. The advertisement said ‘forthwith’; and as no one came to repair it, the monument has been removed.” The six weeks required in conveying the intelligence to India and the six weeks for bringing the directions back compose a period of three months—an interval far too long for the “forthwith” of the advertisement. It was all very well to issue advertisements of this description when London was smaller than it now is, and the representatives of a family remained within the same parish for a century and more. But London within the last fifty years has changed so materially that an advertisement of the description quoted is only half a notice—or rather no notice at all. The time has come for the appointment of a Government Inspector of Monuments;—a man with taste to appreciate and skill to preserve and describe the numerous monuments of interest scattered throughout Great Britain and Ireland. There are many works of the kind in our churches marking the graves of eminent persons—and now fast sinking to decay! Churchwardens in general know little and care less,—and Old Mortality exists only in Romance. Twenty years hence, and these monuments will be no more.—The advertisement which we have quoted contains a striking warning on the subject. In the list of monuments, there is one to the memory of “James Worsdale.” Now, this Worsdale was a person of reputation in his day. Walpole has given a memoir of him in his ‘Anecdotes of Painters’: he also wrote fables, and was a performer of eminence—“playing the part,” as Walpole tells us, “of old Lady Scandal admirably well.” These merits alone should preserve his monument; but there is yet another circumstance in his history which will always preserve his name. He was the person who carried Pope’s letters, at Pope’s request, to the piratical Edmund Curll. Johnson tells the story in his ‘Lives of the Poets.’ Curll at the time was living in Rose Street, Covent Garden:—and here is Worsdale’s grave immediately adjoining. Charles Lamb would have written a charming paper on the subject. Surely this monument should be preserved.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.  
REGENTS’ PARK.—NOTICE.—The celebrated picture of the INTERIOR of ST. MARK’S, at VENICE, exhibiting alone for a short time, is to be transferred to another aspect, Day and Night, and during the latter effect the Grand Machine Organ will perform the ‘Kyrie,’ from Mozart’s Mass, No. 1. Open from Ten till Four.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—LECTURES ON AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY, by F. H. HOLMES, on Daily, at Halfpast Three, and every Evening, at Nine o’Clock. H. H. HOPKINS, on Drawing, and W. L. LYTTELTON, on DR. BACCHUSS, on the LAW of ATTRACTION, &c. &c. refer to the IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF SANITARY MEASURES; the other on the Various Modes of VENTILATION, in which the Physical Properties of a Jet of Steam will be exhibited, with the use of the Thermometer, Telegraph, at Two, and at Eight o’clock in the Evening. The Electric Telegraph; the Working Models explained. Dissolving Vines in the Chromatope. Diving Bell and Diver, with Hyde’s New Apparatus for Covering under Water, &c. &c. Admission, 1s.; Schools, Half-price.

PANORAMA ROYAL, LEICESTER-SQUARE.—NOW OPEN.—A VIEW of the HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS, with the British stations of Kullu, Sabathoo, and Simla, and a vast extent of the Hindoo-Kashmir, the most magnificent scenery in the world. The VIEWS of CAIRO, from drawings taken by David Roberts, Esq., H.A., and of the classical city of ATHENS, are also now open.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.  
MON. Pathological Society, 7.—Council.  
TUES. Scientific Society, 8.  
WED. Linnean Society, 8.  
THUR. Numismatic Society, 7.

### FINE ARTS

#### THE CALOTYPE SOCIETY.

In our notice last week of the meeting of the Graphic Society we had occasion to particularize some specimens of calotype contributed by Mr. Cundall. Since then, we have attended a meeting of a society composed of a dozen gentlemen amateurs associated together for the purpose of pursuing their experiments in this *art-science* (we scarcely know the word fittest completely to designate it); who carry on their operations at different times and places—some residing in the country—but keep up a constant communication with each other, detailing their several improvements and discoveries, and interchanging the repetitions of such sun-pictures as each may have produced. At this meeting held at the house of Mr. Fry, one of the most active of the members, we had the gratification of seeing last Saturday evening a very numerous and complete collection of such matters. The specimens exhibited consisted of every variety of subject—and comprehended many a transcript that reminded us of the finished and brilliant specimens from the needle of a Rembrandt. Many a building subject and many a landscape vied with the works of that master in richness, power and colour:—some of the most prominent being produced by the host of the evening, Mr. Fry. Many monastic and ecclesiastical edifices were exhibited by Mr. Owen—a gentleman of Bristol well known for his talent in his art,—and whose various views of Redelyffe Church and from the more ancient parts of his own city justified the reputation which he has earned. The operations of this Society may be regarded as yet in their infancy; but they are destined to confer no small advantages on Art—by recording for the landscape and building painter more accurate and finished studies than his time or inclination would enable him manfully to make.

FINE ART GOSSIP.—The Seventy-ninth Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Academy was held on Friday in last week in the apartments of that body in Trafalgar Square; when the distribution of the premiums to the students in the several classes took place as follows:—To Mr. J. E. Millais, for the best historical painting—to Mr. G. G. Adams, for the best historical group in sculpture—and to Mr. E. Rumsey, for the best architectural design—the gold medal, and the discourses of the Presidents Reynolds and West. To Mr. W. Proctor, for the best copy made in the School of Painting—and to Mr. T. G. Duval, for the best drawing from the life—the silver medal and the lectures of the Professors Fuseli and Flaxman. To Mr. F. Pickering, for the next best drawing from the life, the silver medal. To Mr. J. C. Lansdown, for the best architectural drawing of the entrance and interior of the Temple Church—and to Mr. C. Compton, for the drawings from the antique,—the silver medal, and the lectures of the Professor Fuseli. To Mr. E. Eagles, for the next best drawings from the antique—and to Mr. E. J. Physick, for the best model from the antique—the silver medal. The general assembly

afterwards enquiring re-electing Mr. Westmoreland dowell Viscount D. Mac C. A. Codd dowell Hart, W. M. Herbert macbeth Auditor We ing. M. spring. new pr preparing is being i took pl of making it is the collecti the beav custum the sub of kind of the leas Mr. Fil like bis butch pointed lat, and dered; of a yet of the a record their fa pased. Mr. T Union been acc forthwith and the novelty that cal the fash brick-star eque ar. We r the past —an em Mr. Kar Yorkshire architect Mr. Sam went to profession years he penses b of which to the F of his d by all w capacity death th of his pice of request the rema

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erwards proceeded to appoint officers for the ensuing year; when Sir M. A. Shee was unanimously re-elected President,—and the Council was composed as follows:—F. R. Lee, W. Wyon, Esqs., Sir R. Westmacott, J. P. Deering, T. Webster, P. Macdowell, J. R. Herbert, and T. Uwins, Esqs. The Visitors in the Life Academy are W. Mulready, D. Macdise, S. A. Hart, H. W. Pickersgill, W. Wyon, A. Cooper, T. Webster, J. R. Herbert, and P. Macdowell, Esqrs.:—in the School of Painting, S. A. Hart, D. Macdise, W. F. Witherington, C. Stanfield, W. Mulready, C. R. Leslie, T. Webster, and J. R. Herbert, Esqrs. W. Mulready, Esq., Sir R. Westmacott, and P. Hardwick, Esq. were re-elected Auditors.

We understand that the new professor of painting, Mr. Leslie, will probably deliver a part, if not the whole, of his course of lectures in the coming spring. By the regulations of the Institution the new professor is always allowed some months for the preparation of his course; but Mr. Leslie's lectures being in a forward state, it is said that he will not avail himself of the privilege of delay.

A meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery took place on Thursday in last week, for the purpose of making a selection from the modern pictures which it is the intention of Mr. Vernon to bequeath to that collection. We understand that the number proposed by the Trustees to be withdrawn does not much exceed fifty.

The temporary and accidental interest which circumstances have added to the essential interest of the subject is producing illustrations in every variety of kind of the national property at Stratford. Not the least pleasing of these is a fac-simile model, by Mr. Filmore, in some white composition that looks like biscuit work, of the well-known house and butcher's shop so long known by the inscription which pointed it out as the birth-place of Shakespeare. Every lath, and tile, and miniature pane of glass is rendered; and in face of the changes back to the aspect of a yet older time which await the old place, many of the subscribers will like, no doubt, to keep such a record as this of a familiar phase through which their famous house on the Avon will ere long have passed.

Mr. Tress's design for the City of London New Union Workhouse—one of forty-one sent in—has been accepted by the authorities; and will be executed forthwith between the Tower Hamlets Cemetery and the road from Stratford-le-Bow. There is much novelty and a certain picturesque effect about it that call for commendation. It has too long been the fashion to make workhouses like perforated brick-stacks;—but here we have an exterior picturesque and pleasing. The estimated cost is 28,000L.

We regret to have to record the death, during the past week, at the age of 72, of Mr. Joseph Kay, an eminent member of the architectural profession. Mr. Kay was descended from an old respectable Yorkshire family. He commenced the study of architecture at an early age, in the office of the late Mr. Samuel Pepys Cockerell;—and subsequently went to Rome, for the purpose of advancing his professional knowledge. In the course of a few years he attained a high position; and was compensated by holding several public appointments—two of which, viz., architect to Greenwich Hospital and to the Foundling Hospital, he retained to the period of his decease. Mr. Kay's integrity, accomplishments, and refined taste caused him to be respected by all who knew him in his private or professional capacity; and it was only a few months before his death that fourteen of the most eminent members of his profession presented him with a handsome piece of plate as a mark of their esteem. At the request of the Governors of the Foundling Hospital, the remains of Mr. Kay were deposited in the vault under the chapel of that institution.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

### THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

#### GRAND OPERA.

MONDAY NEXT, December 20, will be produced a New Grand Opera, in Three Acts, entitled 'THE MAID OF HONOR,' the Libretto by Mr. Fitzball, the Music by Mr. Balf. The principal characters are, Mrs. Webb, and Miss Birch (who will have the honour of making their debuts on this occasion); Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. Reeves.

Doors open at Seven, the Opera to commence at Half-past Seven.

In consequence of Friday being Christmas Eve, there can only be two Performances during the week, viz. on MONDAY and WEDNESDAY.

WEIPPERT'S SOIREE DANSANTE, PRINCESS'S CONCERT ROOMS, MONDAY, DECEMBER, and every Monday. A Soiree Dancante is given in addition to an admittance of admission of Lady any Six Nights during the Season. Single Tickets 7s. each. Weipert's Palace Band as usual, conducted by himself, M.C. Mr. Corrie. The Refreshments by Mr. Payne, of Drury Lane and Covent Garden Theatres. Commence at half-past Ten. Tickets and Programmes at 2s, Soho-square.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*Mendelssohn's Last Compositions.*—Every one will receive these last compositions of Mendelssohn in a mood which for the moment almost precludes criticism. The first is a *Jubilate, for the Morning Service, with Organ Accompaniment*. This, we are told, is the work to which the Composer first turned his thoughts after the great sorrow which so shortly preceded his own death. "The closeness of writing which it demanded," he said to a friend, "was good mental discipline." This service-music, then, is finished with all the Master's best care:—more remarkable, we think, for science and idea in combination than his former productions of the same family. Persons whose admiration of religious music implies vagueness of phrase will do well to study the movement "O! go your way into His gates,"—of which the subject is as sharply cut as if it were the first bars of an opera-tune; yet it is as far from being operatic as a Cathedral is from being Covent Garden Theatre. The Service, again, may be looked into with profit as containing fine examples of that diatonic harmony on which so few of the moderns have ventured,—for the best of all reasons. Yet, how fresh upon the ear come its bold chords and muscular progressions after the sickly chromatic modulations which have been so preternaturally encouraged by certain writers,—and which are so difficult to be delivered in tune by all and sundry readers! And how admirably different in tone, too, is this *Jubilate*, from the Master's contributions to Catholic church music from his convent hymns and "Ave Maria" and "Lauda":—neither Protestant nor Papistical music, again, being by any audacity convertible to other purposes than those of public worship.

Here, too, we have Mendelssohn's last contributions to secular art:—*Six Songs*, making in all some threescore and ten. While running through the list we cannot but call attention to the words chosen by him for setting as an unconscious testimony to the purity and cheerfulness of the Artist's mind. Among them we find half-a-dozen Spring songs (especially the incomparable one in B flat, forgotten by none who ever heard Miss Kemble sing it) all instinct with vivacity and hope. There are delicious recollections of Italy: pleasant old-world love ditties, breathing the freshness, rather than the fever, of the passion; with one specimen—the "Zuleika" in Wessel's set of a force and a fervour sufficient to show that it was no impotence which led the Musician to a habitual avoidance of the most deep and *burning* expression. Nor do Mendelssohn's last Songs here before us belie their predecessors, or show, either in taste or in treatment, a heart grown too old to hope, to enjoy, or to believe! Let us insist that in the above tribute there is no pre-conceived effort "to point a moral," or to force a harmony between a Poet's life and works, which the latter do not justify. When was ever younger and more artless love-music contrived than the song "To the absent one," with that true master's touch in the new, yet natural, imitation of the final bar and its following symphony?—Thus, again, "Comfort, with its hopeful burden,

*Gott's gut ist nimmer fern,*

(the first song in the "Liederbuch" of Mdlle. Jenny Lind), is as clear of languor as if no "weariness of time or change" had ever passed over the writer—as highly finished as though it were the specimen-essay of an aspirant whose fame depended upon the authentication of his technical ingenuity. Excellent, again, in its colour—true water music—is "A Voice from the Lake;" the last two pages of which contain as delicious a *cantabile* as was ever devised for *mezzo soprano*. The collection is worthily closed by "The Song of Night,"—during the first trial of which at the pianoforte of his friend, Madame Frege, the composer felt the first touch of Death.

There must still remain many compositions new to the public lying in the albums of Dr. Mendelssohn's friends. We could specify one written for Miss Masson, another for Miss Dolby, neither of which we have seen in print. It might be well that all these should be collected and authenticated as early as possible. The taste of our time does not

tend to the holding back of such treasures; but in proportion as they are accurately summed up and respectfully laid together is every possibility of tampering and mystification avoided and all trading on the great name of a great man rendered difficult.

#### POPULAR INSTRUCTION IN MUSIC.

The "Committee of the Association for the Revival of Sacred Music" in Scotland has thought fit in the *Athenæum* of Saturday last, to advertise a vote of contradiction to our paragraph of November the 6th [ante, p. 1157], with regard to Dr. Mainzer, which called forth his letter and our comments a fortnight later, November the 20th [ante, p. 1201]. We have subsequently received another letter from Dr. Mainzer's self on the subject,—as follows.

Edinburgh, Dec. 14.

Under the above title, you have given in your number of the 20th of November, a commentary on a letter which I addressed to you as a refutation of your remarks made the 4th of November on my system and classes in Paris and Edinburgh. Under such a title we might expect to find literary or artistic questions discussed, but you have used it for personal remarks and statements which are without foundation, and which therefore I cannot let pass unnoticed.

The following are the conclusions you drew from my letter:—

1. That the commencement of my method is *very exciting*, but that *we never* reached beyond the easy music:—and  
2. That even in the *easy music*, my pupils in Paris *slackened* and *lost me*; and that *I was obliged to turn my attention to stage music*.

3. That my classes in Edinburgh were unable to go to other works, and therefore we had to return again to "There's Nae Luck about the House."

4. *That the children of my schools sing only in unison, like the Charity Children in St. Paul's.*

That the beginning of my method is so exciting as even to have taken by surprise your Parisian correspondent, great judge as he appears, and to have moved him to such a degree that he published a comparison, so humiliating to all great English choral societies, with my school of operatives, which had scarcely been six months in existence, is still something,—and might, considering the general dryness of musical tuition, be of some educational interest. Yet the excitement should, of course, lead to something better. This also has been done, and is proved in the fact that a considerable number of my *operative-pupils* in Paris are now professional singers, teachers, directors of choral societies, and leaders of choirs in churches and chapels.

The children of the classes in Edinburgh, with whom the first excitement has passed by two or three years ago, and who now sing counter-pointed compositions and fugues, come from the most distant parts of the town, without being obliged to do so, with the greatest regularity—storm, rain, or snow. Your own readers in Edinburgh will be therefore to judge between you and me, from personal experience, and to give to your statement as unqualified a contradiction as Sir George Warrender's resolution unanimously carried by the Committee of the Association [see ante, p. 1257] has done to your first article of the 6th of November.

2. I had written dramatic works a long time before I came to Paris, and many years before I opened the class for the operatives. The representation of my opera did not for a moment prevent me continuing these classes, and my pupils remained with me until I left Paris.

3. In our programme I stated that we would return after the performance of "Judas Maccabaeus" to a simpler style of music. Every musician knows, that when we are able to perform this work we can as well reach any of Handel's compositions; and if we return to a simpler style of music, it is not for want of power, but because Handel's Operatics do not appear to us fit for schools of children.

That, according to you, there is between Handel's "Maccabaeus" and "There's Nae Luck about the House" no other composition fit to be sung, does not speak in favour of your bibliographical knowledge in music.

4. If our children sing in "Judas Maccabaeus," besides the *solo* and *duets*, the *treble* and *alto* parts of the choruses, how can you say that they sing only in *unison*, like the Charity Children in St. Paul's? Should they sing, perhaps, the *tenor* and *bass* also?

We are able to gather in Edinburgh as many children who sing in *parts* as there are on the 4th of June in St. Paul's who sing in *unison*: this shows that the system in practice here is not so near its extinction as you have so triumphantly announced it.—I am, &c.

JOSEPH MAINZER.

In the above, it will be observed that Dr. Mainzer chooses to give his own interpretation to our paragraphs. But to enter into this question were waste of patience;—since even allowing his transcript to be a fair one, we find that, beyond the flat assertion with regard to the rank to which certain of his operative pupils of the defunct classes in Paris have risen (a matter un-proved by the experience of any visitor or educational inspector), Dr. Mainzer produces not the slightest contradiction of any one fact advanced in our statement of the 20th ult. Of this the minute of "The Association" also, takes not the slightest notice: contenting itself with approving the *treble* and *alto* parts of the "Judas" choruses as sung by 250 children with fifty professional (?) tenors and basses—for which performance Dr. Mainzer's own programme offered

an apology. This virtually ends the controversy and gives up the question:—since, if such a performance, at once empirical and imperfect, be accepted as a test and referred to with triumph, it becomes obvious that the “Association for the Revival of Sacred Music” has objects totally alien from those which it has been ever our object to recommend—or, to speak plainly, that as regards artistic progress or scientific knowledge, Dr. Mainzer’s efforts are even more fruitless than we stated in the original paragraph which called out such singularly inconclusive confessions.—Dr. Mainzer will therefore understand that we must here take leave of the subject.

**MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.**—The 5th of January is mentioned as the day fixed for the performance of the 'Antigone' with Mendelssohn's choruses at the St. James's Theatre. Difficulties on the part of the licence, we believe, have prevented the 'Athalie' being given. Should this be the case, it might not be inexpedient to present the choruses in the *cantata* form.—On the 12th, we observe, Mr. Hullah's pupils are going to give an evening, to be devoted to the composer's music; one feature of which is to be the psalm 'O! come let us worship,' not as yet performed in London.—We doubt not that the new Quintett, and the two new Quartets also, will be fitly introduced on an early occasion.—There have been, probably, few instances in Art when a contemporary has in one hour thus become a classic. The works of Mozart were so carelessly thrown about, that their number remains even now among contested matters. The latest compositions of Beethoven (the value of which is still disputed) were given out to an indifferent world,—little cared for in Germany. When Weber died, a large portion of his works were but partially known, and but one of his operas was popular without question. In the case of Mendelssohn the recognition was complete in the Master's lifetime; it is only now continued,—and we have small fear of its being reversed. Were we in a humour for descanting on national differences from such a text, we could, most instructively, call attention to the tone of the French press on the occasion. While our neighbours are slow to admit a reputation which they have not "discovered," they are singularly limited and supine (as we have a thousand times pointed out) in "discovery." Here is a reputation which they cannot question, but know not how to admit. Ere we leave the subject, it may be as well to advert to a slight correction which we have received with regard to our notice [*ante*, p. 1178]. In this, a German correspondent assures us that Mendelssohn was never "a pupil under Hummel." Our impression was, that not only did the boy profit indirectly by the presence and example of all the great players, one after the other, whom chance brought to Berlin,—as Field, Kalkbrenner, Moscheles, &c.,—but that he *had* taken the lessons in question. The mistake is a slight one,—but the correction may as well be registered.

Only last Saturday we observed that in theatrical matters there is "nothing certain but their uncertainty." This week opened with an announcement that Mr. Beale has withdrawn from the management of the Covent Garden Opera,—the lesseeship of which has fallen into the hands of a gentleman sufficiently monied to carry out the original design in the most complete manner. We are told that this transfer will in no respect affect the engagements already entered into, while it places the financial part of the undertaking on a basis of sound and promising permanence.—We hear that the golden and even the silver age of Mr. Bunn's operatic speculation at the Surrey Theatre have already passed. The same principles of management must and *will* lead to the same results, whether the quarter be North, South, East or West,—the audience a pound or a penny one!

Our contemporaries announce the recent decease of that urbane and accomplished musical amateur, Sir John Rogers,—for so many years the President of the Madrigal Society,—and whose part-compositions deserve to be ranked with the good English efforts of their class.

of their class.  
The *Society of British Musicians* held another  
orchestral trial of new works the day before yester-  
day. The principal pieces performed were Overtures  
by Messrs. Thomas and Mitchell and a Symphony

by Mr. Baly. Some vocal compositions were also tried.

There is no end to the munificence of the Musician. We now read in the foreign papers that Mdlle. Jenny Lind has signed a note addressed to the Stockholm gazettes announcing her intention of devoting the gains of three months' performances in her native city to an object no less worthy than the establishment of a musical and dramatic conservatory. Mdlle. Lind was to sing once a week during the months of December, January and February; and, as was natural after so generous an announcement, the *furore* excited by her first performance seems to have been even greater than on any similar occasion in any other place; tickets having been sold at fifty times their value!—While we are in Stockholm, we may advert to the recent decease there of the favourite actress, Mdlle. Höglquist; whose name will be found, together with Mdlle. Lind's, in the paragraph of Frederika Bremer's 'Home' which first introduced the songstress to our acquaintance. Mdlle. Höglquist seems to have died in possession of much treasure. The list of her possessions brought to public auction (among others a jewelled parasol) is like one of the inventories in an antique will rather than a document of our own time.

The production of the new opera by MM. Scribe and Auber at the *Opéra Comique* has been deferred at the eleventh hour,—owing, it has been said, to the unsatisfactory nature of the *libretto*, which claims alteration, if not total reconstruction.—Almost every musical post from Paris brings us yet another notice of the utter heaviness and unpopularity of Verdi's "Jerusalem." It is in every sense of the word unlucky for the new management to have made such a mistake at the outset of its career. The *Athenaeum* has now, we imagine, recorded enough for the amplest justification of its judgment, so early expressed and so warmly contested.

We are told that the other day, when the prizes at the *Conservatoire* were distributed, an Overture by Mr. George Mathias—pupil of M. Halévy—was much admired. Is this the same person who was heard here some years ago as a prodigy on the pianoforte? He displayed great ability and promise.

Meanwhile, the frequenters of the *Odéon* have been made merry by a new comedy of English politics and London journalism. 'Les Tribulations d'un Grand Homme' is the tale of one Brewer Jobson, who gets made a Parliament man (thereupon dubbed by M. Janin 'Sir Jobson'),—becomes a great orator,—falls into the snares of one *Mr. Punch*, a journalist,—suffers shipwreck accordingly,—and retires from the House into the old familiar vat of private life. Here is pleasant matter for our contemporary !

## MISCELLANEA

*Paris Academy of Sciences*.—Dec. 6.—M. Ebelmen submitted to the Academy some specimens of artificial quartz. Amongst them are some to which he has given various tints by mixing colouring substances with the silicic acid. The specimens impregnated with chloruret of gold are remarkably beautiful. At the end of a certain time the chloruret of gold is decomposed, and streaks of gold appear in the entire mass. The decomposition is accelerated by the action of the solar light, and under its influence also bright colours are obtained—sometimes blue, sometimes red, and sometimes violet. By a modification of his process, M. Ebelmen obtains a true natural mineral, the *hydrophane*. It is a siliceous, porous, and opaque substance, which becomes perfectly diaphanous as soon as it is plunged in water. M. Ebelmen

has ascertained that this substance absorbs gases more powerfully as charcoal.—A communication was received from M. Christian Bonafoux, giving an account of the attempt made, by order of the King of Holland, to acclimatize the llamas and alpacas of Chili. Four years ago thirty-four of these animals, males and females, were imported into Holland, and put into the royal park, Scheveningen, near the Hague, where they have propagated freely. The climate does them no injury, and they merely seek the shelter prepared for them when there is snow on the ground.—M. Gaudichaud laid before the Academy his opinion on the disease which has lately been so destructive to the potato.—M. Blanchet gave an account of the

serious consequences resulting from the process of whitening Brussels lace to the persons employed in it. In this process the carbonate of lead is used; and a large portion of it is carried into the atmosphere, where it is inhaled, and thus produces a serious affection of the intestines. It is also very injurious to the sight and to the hearing.—M. Leroy d'Etiolles submitted a new and improved lithotritic instrument.

*The Eclipse.*—The meteorological observations made at the Cambridge Observatory during the eclipse on the 9th Oct. have been published, as follows:—“The changes in the barometer and hygrometer were very small, but sufficiently considerable to show them to have been in some measure affected by the phenomenon. The observations were taken at intervals of from 10 to 15 minutes. At 6<sup>h</sup> gm. the barometer read 29.933 in., and until the commencement of the eclipse showed an inclination to fall. At the time of the greatest obscuration, it remained stationary, and immediately after it continued to ascend; finally, at 8<sup>h</sup> 45<sup>m</sup> it read 29.963 in., having thus ascended 0.030 in. in 2<sup>h</sup> 45<sup>m</sup>. With three common thermometers, one with the bulb blackened and exposed to the sun’s light, another with plain bulb in the same position, and the third in the shade, the readings were plainly affected, though to a small amount,—remaining mostly stationary as the sun became obscured, and varying rapidly as the phenomenon passed off. With hygrometers exposed to the sun’s light, and in the shade, the differences were very uniform, following the same range as the common thermometers. Owing to the moisture in the atmosphere, the wet and dry bulb readings were nearly the same, the difference being at the commencement of the eclipse—Wet below dry 0.5 deg.; at greatest obscuration, 0.1 deg.; and at termination 1.0 deg.”

*Common Time throughout England.*—An occurrence of considerable importance in a national point of view took place on the 1st inst., when the mail and other trains between London, Liverpool, Manchester, and the north were, in consequence of the completion of the through communication, placed upon the Trent Valley line instead of going round by Birmingham. On this occasion, by order of the directors of the London and North-Western, with the concurrence, it is understood, of the Railway Commissioners and the Post-office authorities, the clocks at every station on the London and North-Western, the Midland, Birmingham and Gloucester, and other lines, were set to Greenwich time. It was at first proposed, in order to obtain the communication of true time—a practice now daily adopted at Greenwich for indicating it—that a ball should be dropped from the upper part of the Observatory as to touch a spring communicating with all the telegraphic wires in the kingdom, and thus by the striking of a bell give instantaneous true time to Liverpool and Manchester and all the northern towns. The telegraph could thus from day to day supply any want of uniformity; but owing to the wires not being completed, and not communicating with every station, the design was found impracticable. In default of this, another plan was resorted to—that of sending special messengers, each having a chronometer indicating true Greenwich time, to the several divisions of the London and North-Western, and Midland systems; so that Greenwich and London time, in the course of the day, was communicated and established at every station on these lines—the stations amounting to between 200 and 300, and affecting all the principal towns and cities between London and Carlisle and London and York.—*Daily News.*

A Reader.—Our correspondent is mistaken in supposing that the subject to which he directs our attention has been overlooked by us. It has been matter of comment more than once in our columns—and has received, we hope, a much exposure as is necessary to make it harmless.

much exposure as is necessary to make it harmless. D. W.—We cannot possibly find space for any further extension of our reports of the kind which our Edinburgh correspondent offers. Those to which we are pleased already encroach on it largely; and if we yielded to so many similar requests that are addressed to us, a large proportion of our paper would be given up to these matter alone.

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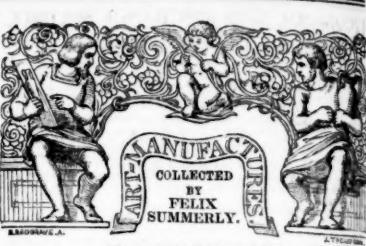
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40	12th May.	1,000	42 15 0	23 13 0	2 11 10	2 13 10	2 15 10	2 17 10	2 19 10	3 6 3
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